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BRIEFS

SUBMARINE GAS EXPLOITATION FIGURES--Abkatun Marine Platform, 18 Mar 84--At the end of a tour of the Abkatun (Mayan name which means the god who supports the world) installations located almost 100 kilometers offshore, President Miguel de la Madrid congratulated the PEMEX [Mexican Petroleum] workers, technicians and officials who, tanned by the sun and the salt, have made it possible for Mexico to join the select group of countries that can utilize 98 percent of the gas extracted from the seabottom. Up to a year ago, only 42 percent of the 900 million cubic feet of gas generated here daily were utilized. But the effort, ingenuity and determination of a handful of Mexican technicians who, in the open sea, facing dangers and overcoming nature, made it possible to pump it through a submarine gas pipeline to the Atasta compression station on the mainland. [Excerpt] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 19 Mar 84 p 31-A] 8414

EXPANSION OF ELECTRICAL NETWORK PLANNED--The Federal Electricity Commission will allocate a total of 18 million pesos for new distribution networks in 1984, in order to meet the demand of important industrial centers in the country, which represents a substantial advance in the economic revival of Mexico. The new networks will benefit industries, tourist and agricultural development, and large commercial and residential centers. In the under 230-volt substation category, 44 new facilities will be built and another 54 will be enlarged for a total capacity of 200,000 kilowatts during the current calendar year, at a cost of 3.8 billion pesos. The new transmission lines add up to 1,500 kilometers mainly in the states of Sonora, Veracruz, Chihuahua, Tamaulipas, Puebla, Jalisco, Guanajuato and Michoacan. Some of the concerns that have requested power supplies are the automotive industries in Sonora State, PEMEX in Tabasco, Puebla Industrial Park, FERTIMEX in Pajaritos, Tijuana Otay Industrial Park, Mexican Steel Mills, Inc. in Coahuila, and Mexican Cooper Company in Sonora. [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 23 Mar 84 p 5-A] 8414

CSO: 3248/557

DRUG ISSUE PROVIDES BACKDROP TO POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

Pindling Assault on FNM

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 17 Mar 84 pp 1, 11

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text] Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling charged last night that "quite possibly as early as July or August, 1983," the Official Opposition FNM set in motion in the United States a "disinformation campaign" to ruin the Bahamas Government in the eyes of Americans and to bring down the Government at home.

Addressing a rally of 2,000 at the R M Bailey senior High School auditorium, the Prime Minister declared that since the FNM convention in 1982, the ruling PLP and its leaders have been under a "sustained and calculated attack" by an organized and calculated programme involving the spreading "far and near" of misinformation.

He said that the FNM leaders unleashed this campaign at that particular convention and their followers up and down the country were encouraged to do likewise, and vile and vicious personal slander was heaped upon many PLP leaders.

He said that the FNM produced the slogan "Kick the Rascals Out" and that the PLP were expected to run, but he did not back down and decided to fight back.

He said that he made his move at a May 17, 1982, rally at the Golden Gates Shopping Centre and challenged FNM Deputy Leader Orville Turnquest to prove that he is a crook and begged the FNM to produce their facts.

"But all I ever got was shattering silence," the Prime Minister told the enthusiastic supporters who filled the auditorium to capacity not even leaving standing room and who stood by the doors and windows listening to the address.

He said that Mr Turnquest had also referred to what he called corrupt PLP Ministers and politicians in the Government but when he called his hand, Mr Turnquest played as if he did not know what he was talking about.

Noting that at that convention, Mr Turnquest described FNM Leader Kendal Isaacs, QC, a Christian gentleman with high moral standards, but the FNM lost the last general elections badly.

"But right away they played as if they could not understand why and they even played crazy for a while and even tried to spread the idea that the PLP had stolen the election," he said. "That was a myth. That was a lie."

He said that the computer and not people, had told the FNM that they would win but what the computer told them was based on what they themselves had programmed into the computer.

He said a disinformation campaign is the spreading of misinformation deliberately intended to breed mistrust in the minds of the people so as to influence people's opinions and actions, but not intended to fool anybody.

He said that the leaders of the FNM tried to get something started at that convention but really could not make any headway because they themselves were not prepared to spout the black and grey propaganda out of their own mouths.

He said that the FNM leaders were afraid of facing a charge in the court of criminal libel or slander and pulled back at that time and relied on private sip-sips and not public pronouncement.

But when that technique did not succeed and win them an election in 1982, they asked themselves why and it was his view that they concluded that they could not succeed because they could not go public with their disinformation.

He said that what followed from that decision was clearly intended to change the course of history in the Bahamas and they felt that by the time anybody found out what happened, there would have been an election and everything would have been all over."

He said that after the FNM lost the 1982 elections, there was talk that the new House of Assembly was not going to last the full five years and much talk that there would be another election in two years.

The Prime Minister said that the FNMs were programmed to believe that and that is now where the difficulty of the opposition party's leaders lie.

He said that in their anxiety, the FNM made some big that the Defence Force would have a very close working relationship with the United States Coast Guard and the initial task was to recruit and train officers and marines, purchase patrol vessels and create a base from which to mistakes, and thought that after September 5, 1983, when NBC News Correspondent Brian Ross reported allegations of Government corruption, the PLP would run and hide. [paragraph as published]

But, he said, the FNM fell victim to their own propaganda based on misinformation.

He said that there were two very clear examples of this in the House of Assembly last Wednesday and recalled that the FNM were actively spreading their propaganda that the PLP Government was anti-American, was trading with the Communists and that relations with the U.S. was so bad that U.S. President Ronald Reagan would not answer his letter.

"Well, President Reagan did answer my letter and not only did he answer once, he answered twice and the contents of the correspondence are now public for all to see," the Prime Minister said.

Another example, he said, was the FNM propaganda that Miss Judy Mae Lewis was fired because she was an FNM.

"That was exploded when Minister Maycock produced and read in the House of Assembly a copy of the recommendation he gave Judy Lewis for the job in November of 1983," he said.

The Prime Minister told the crowd that a third big mistake made by the FNM was that they did not believe that their leader "could be so dumb."

"Ordinarily, he is a bright man, but over and over again and more so of late, unfortunately, he has demonstrated that in politics, he is just plain dumb," the Prime Minister said.

Giving the crowd an example of what he meant, the Prime Minister said that in the House of Assembly, Mr Isaacs did something he was taught in law school and over the years in the practice of law, never to do: do not ask questions, the answers to which you either do not want or you don't know before hand.

"I mean they drum that into your head the first day you walk into the door in law school," he said. "Don't make a fool out of yourself like that. It is an elementary point, yet a fundamental point, yet he did it."

"He asked for questions and he got his answers that he did not want, that he did not expect and that he did not know beforehand," the Prime Minister said. "Now don't ask me why he asked the question. I don't know why he asked them and I don't know why he asked them when he did, but I do know this: the FNM's biggest mistake of all is and always has been that they refuse to re-

cognize that the Almighty never sleep and therefore God don't like ugly," the Prime Minister said.

He reminded the crowd that he made a bold statement at the opening of his address which was that in September, or quite possibly as early as July or August, 1983, the FNM set in motion in the U.S. a misinformation campaign to ruin the Government of the Bahamas in the eyes of the people in America and abroad and to bring down the Government at home.

The Prime Minister then produced Registration Statement No 3534 of Justice International, of 6595 Little River Turnpike, Street 175, Alexandria, Virginia, zip code 22312-5098, filed with the U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, in accordance with the provisions of the American Foreign Agents Registration Act, 1938.

The registration statement was produced by the Prime Minister to back up his charges that the FNM was behind the September 5, 1983, NBC report containing the allegations against the Bahamas Government and to support the charges made by Foreign Minister and Attorney General Paul Adderley in a letter to U.S. Attorney General William French Smith on March 2, 1984.

He said that the registration statement is required by American law so that authorities there can be aware of what is going on in the UIS which can affect their own relations with other countries.

According to the document, as in Mr Adderley's letter, Justice International, which also acts as a private investigation agency and fact-finding organization, is registered as a foreign agent whose sole foreign principal is the FNM.

Pindling on U.S.-FNM Links

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 17 Mar 84 pp 1, 11

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text] Official Opposition Leader Kendal Isaacs, QC, must have met Max Morgan Cherry of Justice International much sooner than mid-October last year and his admission left many questions to be answered, Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling told 2,000 PLP supporters at a rally last night.

In his one-and-a-half hour speech in a capacity-filled R M Bailey Senior High School auditorium, the Prime Minister also charged the Free National Movement with trying to raise money from Americans hoping that general elections will be held in the Bahamas this year.

Making a few extra points before he read to the crowd a Registration Statement of Justice International, a U.S. foreign agent company whose sole foreign principal is the FNM, he said that Thursday night Mr Isaacs, the Official Opposition Leader, admitted that he had met Morgan Cherry about the middle of October, 1983.

The Prime Minister compared the facts on the registration statement with statements in the FNM press release issued Thursday after he had revealed in the House of Assembly Wednesday the contents of a letter written on March 2 by Foreign Minister and Attorney General Paul Adderley to U.S. Attorney General William French Smith.

In the letter Mr Adderley informed Mr Smith that Justice International was the foreign agent company registered in the U.S. whose sole foreign principal is the FNM and Official Opposition Leader Kendal Isaacs.

In denying that it had given a report alleging government corruption to NBC through Mr Cherry of Justice International, the FNM stated in a press release that Mr Isaacs had met Mr Cherry almost a month after the NBC accusations were broadcast on September 5, 1983.

"The moment he admitted that, I don't know how many questions flooded into the minds of free Bahamians," the Prime Minister said. "The first question which came to everybody's mind was: what is this Christian gentleman going to see a private detective in America for?"

"What does this Christian gentleman want Mr Morgan Cherry to find out for him that he could'nt find out from official U.S. Government sources? What would a private detective in America have to do with politics in the Bahamas?" the Prime Minister asked.

He also asked what would "this Christian gentleman do with the information this private detective gave him?"

"And the difficulty is: suppose the information that this private detective who said to this Christian gentleman wasn't true in the first place? What then? We have a problem. We have a serious problem," the Prime Minister said.

He said that from what is now known, it is a clear plan of the FNM and Justice International to make people in America feel convinced that there will soon be elections in "our Bahamas."

He said that he made that assertion because "they are simply out in America trying to raise money for an election but you can't come to me and ask me to give you money for an election if an election ain't going to take place."

"So obviously they had to make somebody in America feel that there will be an election and they must be given something so that could help make them win and that is how the story goes," the Prime Minister said. "It is as simple as that."

He said that once the FNM had set that game plan in motion in the United States, they have to come back home to the Bahamas and try to make people here believe that there will be an election.

"Election my foot," the Prime Minister declared. "What election? We just had one. Well you know, I believe even Shadow goes to your head sometime. The Shadow must be going to tell them when it's going to be. I know, I ain't tell nobody. I ain't even tell myself yet."

The Prime Minister then wondered whether the programme of civil disobedience called for at that same FNM convention could have had this objective in mind.

"Could it be that somebody wanted to create a situation on the ground here in the Bahamas so that it could look like

something was going to happen?" he asked. "Maybe, it is a deduction that can be drawn."

"One thing is certain," he said. "We now know. No guess work. We now know that some people in America too believe that there is going to be a general election in the Bahamas this year. They are fool, but they believe it."

"They are not yet wise to the fact that in all probability, the claim is nothing more than an FNM gimmick to raise money. After all, that is what the FNM wants."

"They are looking for money in America because they sucked Bay Street pretty dry in '82 and the well ran out of water man. They are trying to find another John," the Prime Minister said.

"And they would sell all of the Bahamas to people they don't even know about, to win an election," he added.

He said that while the FNM is trying to make money in America by making believe that there will soon be an election in the Bahamas, some Americans are trying to make money out of that same idea.

"Mind you know it don't take Americans long to get on the money band-wagon," he added.

The Prime Minister was preceded to the podium by Senator Ruby Ann Darling, Holy Cross MP Charles Carter, South Beach MP Edward "Bobby" Glinton and Transport Minister Philip Bethel.

Other Government Ministers present included Foreign Minister and Attorney General Senator Paul Adderley, Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Arthur Hanna, Tourism Minister Perry Christie, Youth, Sports and Community Affairs Minister Kendal Nottage and Housing and National Insurance Minister Hubert Ingraham.

Transport Minister's Remarks

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 19 Mar 84 p 10

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text] Transport Minister Philip Bethel disclosed at a Progressive Liberal Party "Get involved" mass rally Friday night that Government will increase the quota for taxi licences very soon and when the new licences are issued "PLPs will come first."

The Minister also revealed that last Friday, the country passed the 3.1 million tons in ship registration and predicted that by next March, the figure will be five million tons.

Mr Bethel made his disclosures as he spoke to a crowd of 2,000 party supporters attending the rally at the R M Bailey Senior High School auditorium.

A large police presence was visible at the rally, which also featured as speakers Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling, South Beach MP Edward "Bobby" Ginton, Holy Cross MP Charles Carter and Senator Ruby Ann Darling as speakers.

He told his audience that Bahamians today enjoy the good life because of improvements made by the PLP Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling over the last 17 years.

He said the FNM are people without gratitude, without soul and who will sell the country cheap.

"This is the calibre of the FNM," he said. "You see, this is no joke. We are in a battle, we are in a war and we want to destroy the enemy. Don't think I am joking about that. Dead serious about that because I am going to show you. They could destroy every single PLP in this country."

He told the crowd not to mind the FNM's slogan saying they are for all. "All my foot," he declared. "They are all for the FNM."

Mr Bethel said that politics is no playing game and that you either win or you lose, and that the people who win are supposed to win.

Mentioning a few of the things that have happened under PLP rule, Mr Bethel said that there is an expansion in education, in health care, in the Bahamianization programme.

On aviation, he said that some Bahamian pilots have become so filled with pomposity and pride that they are talking about going on strike.

"But I tell you something, if 60 or 80 go on strike, we have got enough pilots, we have got enough pilots around here to fly any jet," Mr Bethel said. "And I am not suggesting that but I am only going to show you that we should stop and think and remember from whence we have come."

Whitfield on Elections

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 21 Mar 84 p 1

[Article by Atehan Damianos]

[Text]

FREE National Movement chairman Cecil Wallace-Whitfield said today he expects there will be elections by the end of the year.

However, he didn't think Prime Minister Lynden Pindling would call an election until the Commission of Inquiry has completed hearings and made a report. The Commission is, among other things, looking into the involvement of Government officials, if any, in drug trafficking.

"There has been a tremendous slide in PLP support and I think that the Prime Minister, in desperation, is trying to create some kind of false issue - which is really a non-issue - in order to prevent a further slide of support," Mr Whitfield said.

The Pine Ridge MP was referring to Sir Lynden's charges Friday that the FNM was behind the September 5, 1983 newscast that led to the appointment of the Commission. Sir Lynden told a public rally Friday that the FNM set a campaign of misinformation in motion in the United States to ruin the Government of the Bahamas in the eyes of Americans.

Since the suspension of the Commission's public hearings for six weeks so that one of the Commissioners, the Anglican Bishop of Barbados, could return home to take care of his church duties, there has been speculation that Parliament might be dissolved.

"I don't see that happening at the moment because I don't see how he (Prime Minister) could dissolve the House with the Commission of Inquiry sitting. No responsible Government could do it," Mr Whitfield said.

"I expect that there would be an election later on this year," he added.

Sir Lynden told the public rally Friday that the FNM wanted people in America to think there would be an election, and that they were trying to use this to raise funds.

"Election my foot," Sir Lynden declared. "What election? We just had one...I know I ain't tell nobody (when the next election will be). I ain't even tell myself yet," he said.

Some political observers feel that the Prime Minister will go the full term before calling an election. Others, however, see his remarks as being an effective way of keeping an early election secret so as to discourage people from contributing campaign funds to the FNM. Members of the public have also commented that radio announcements advertising last Friday's PLP rally took the form of election propaganda.

The advertisements spoke about the PLP fighting against racial discrimination and now having to fight against "dark forces inside and outside the country (seeking to) enslave us." The last general election in the Bahamas was held on June 10, 1982. Under the Constitution, an election must be held within five years of that date.

Whitfield Attack on Pindling

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 23 Mar 84 p 1

[Text] The 1967 Royal Commission of Inquiry on gambling in the Bahamas concluded that Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling was not "wholly frank" about his dealings with Michael McLaney whom the Commission felt was allowed to believe by the Prime Minister that there was a "deal in store for him," FNM Chairman Cecil Wallace Whitfield disclosed last night.

"You know what that means," Mr Whitfield, MP for Pine Ridge, Grand Bahama, told party supporters at last night's rally. "That means that they were not satisfied that he was telling the whole truth and nothing but the truth."

In his remarks to the crowd gathered on the playing grounds of the R M Bailey Senior High School, Mr Whitfield said that the conclusion was made in Chapter 314 of the 1967 Commission Report.

He said that the PLP in 1967 went and looked for aid and help in the United States, for money and assistance in getting the message and propaganda of the PLP across to the American people.

Mr Whitfield said that a main point in the report said: "When a general election appeared to be in the offing in mid-1966, Mr Pindling invited Mr Probinsky, external forces, to take charge of public relations on behalf of the Progressive Liberal Party and this was accepted.

"Mr Probinsky failed in his efforts to raise funds for the PLP in the United States, but told Pindling that Mr McLaney might be in a position to obtain help in kind for the coming election."

Quoting from the same report, Mr Whitfield said: "The Premier, Mr Pindling, told us that after he had presented a complaint about gambling irregularities in the Bahamas to the United Nations in 1965, Mr Tex McCreary, another foreigner, contacted him with information that he possessed evidence acquired during his one-time employment with a development company in the public relations field.

"As a result he introduced the Premier to a Mr James Mayer, formerly of that company on the occasion of the Premier's second visit to the United Nations in September, 1966, also to Mr Hope Stevens, Mr Stanley Penn and Carmen of the WALL STREET JOURNAL."

"All these aliens," Mr Whitfield said, "helped bring Pindling and the PLP to beat the UBP."

Continuing to read the 1967 report, Mr Whitfield said: "It was clear that Mr McCreary was not only instrumental in getting the JOURNAL article written in October, 1966, but was subsequently responsible for the PLP's success at the general elections in January this year."

"So when you hear Pindling talk, here is the record which shows that the PLP in 1967 went had looked for aid and help in the United States, for money and for assistance in getting the message or propaganda of the PLP across to the American people," Mr Whitfield said. [as published]

"There ain't no Bahamian voters in the WALL STREET JOURNAL in New York," he said. "Yet Pindling was going to them and looking for the WALL STREET JOURNAL to assist him."

He said that the 1967 Commission Report then went on to tell what kind of man the Prime Minister is in Chapter 314.

"For the sake of completeness, we feel we should make some reference in this chapter to the understanding between Mr Pindling and Mr McLaney prior to the last election.

"Mr Pindling and his colleagues were in desperate need of financial assistance for their campaign," the Commission reported.

He said that because of all of the threats that the Prime Minister has issued to businessmen in this country in 1984, many of them are afraid to contribute to the FNM.

"And if I could find somebody in the United States who was willing to contribute to the FNM beating the PLP, by damn, bring that money, boy!" Mr Whitfield exclaimed.

Continuing with the report, he read: "We are satisfied that he was ready to accept help from almost any sources. In view of the emphasis in the PLP's electoral platform of the alleged corruption of members of the previous Government against the elements of the gaming world, it is unfortunate that he turned to Mr McLaney for aid. He did not make sufficient inquiries into the latter's antecedents.

"We feel that Mr Pindling allowed Mr McLaney to believe that there was a deal in store for him. In this respect, Mr Pindling was not wholly frank with the Commission."

The Commission Report went on to say: "In our view, however, he was solely actuated by the interest of his party and not by any motive of personal gain."

"Now when you see a Commission make that finding about a person, and now he's coming to the Bahamian people in 1984 and trying to play games with our minds, we know that what Pindling has done is manufacture and try to create something in the minds of people to create suspicions," he said.

"And you know something," declared Mr Whitfield, "Pindling told you that, but nobody bothered to analyse it."

Isaacs on Drug 'Emergency'

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 23 Mar 84 p 1

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text] Drug abuse in the Bahamas is a "national emergency" and the resources of the Government, churches, civic and youth organizations must be quickly coordinated and directed against this problem before it is too late, warned Official Opposition Leader Kendal Isaacs, QC, at a rally last night.

Mr Isaacs said that the existing medical and psychiatric facilities are totally inadequate to deal with the growing number of people falling victim to drug abuse. He revealed that people in the medical profession say that suicide is on the rise among young Bahamians.

"We know that drug abuse has reached epidemic proportions in our country and that the Government seems paralysed, unable or unwilling to take the steps necessary to deal with it," Mr Isaacs told his audience of about 500 gathered at the RM Bailey School Grounds.

"For one thing, the existing medical and psychiatric facilities are totally inadequate to deal with the growing number of people who are falling victim to drug abuse," he said. "And among them is an appalling number of young people whose lives are being ruined."

Mr Isaacs said that there used to be a joke that if you missed someone out of Nassau, you would find them in Freeport.

"That was a happy joke," he said. "Now it is no joke at all to know that friends, relatives and fellow citizens are crowding the wards of our hospitals as a result of drug abuse."

"This is a national emergency and we need to have the resources of the Government, churches, civic organizations, youth organizations and so on, quickly coordinated and directed against this problem before it is too late," he said.

Mr Isaacs added: "It is already too late for some. Some have lost good jobs. Others have lost their lives. People in the medical profession have told us that suicide is on the rise among young Bahamians and one doctor said he knew of six in the course of six months."

He told his audience that as a result of the allegations broadcast by NBC last year, the smuggling of drugs through the Bahamas and the involvement of Bahamian politicians and officials, if any, in this nefarious trade, are being investigated.

"You also know that we are not at liberty to discuss the proceedings of the Royal Commission of Inquiry at this time," he said. "In due course, the Inquiry will make its report and we will then be free to deal with it."

But in the meantime, Mr Isaacs said, "all of us have eyes to see the multitude of problems which beset this country, problems which are in no way the doing of the FNM, but problems which are the direct creations of the PLP Government."

"The massive unemployment which the PLP started back in the early seventies is still with us and, despite their frantic and misdirected efforts, is still growing with every year that passes," he said.

Mr Isaacs said that the FNM knows of the pain of unemployment being suffered by thousands of parents and thousands more young people because they come to them every day looking and hoping for something to do.

"They want to make an honest living and thereby contribute to their own development of their country," he said.

"The jobs are simply not there and all because the PLP Government stopped the rapid expansion of the economy which was taking place 15 years ago," he said. "And they have not been able to restore the necessary rate because they do not take the confidence of enough honest investors."

Mr Isaacs also said that crime, especially violent crime, is still with us, with citizens being terrorized in their homes, on the streets, in their cars, ad everywhere.

"And saddest of all," Mr Isaacs declared, "our women and young girls are being brutalized by gang rapists.

"I think it would be interesting to find out just how much of this violence and rape can be directly related to drug abuse," he added.

He said that the FNM intends to bring this matter forcefully to the attention of the Government in the hope that it will be able to move them to take some steps and in particular to increase the penalties for rape and sexual molestation of infants.

"These are some of the issues and only some--which face the Bahamas today and which, as I said, are the direct responsibility of the PLP Government.

"The issue," he said, "is not whether we FNMs have people in the United States working for us. The issue is not who gave Brian Ross the documents for his expose.

"The sum total of all the issues is that the PLP Government has been an absolute failure and should be removed from power by the people at the very earliest opportunity," he said.

Call for PLP's Removal

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 26 Mar 84 pp 1, 4

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text]

OFFICIAL Opposition Chairman Cecil Wallace-Whitfield declared Thursday night that the Free National Movement is not interested in "destroying" the Bahamas Government, only in removing from the "seat of power" the men who presently bring the nation into disrepute and cause suspicion and mistrust of the Bahamas in the minds of the American people.

"It is that what we would like to see cleaned up," said Mr Whitfield, the MP for Pine Ridge, Grand Bahama. "That is why we would like to have the change of Government take place before the end of the year."

Mr Whitfield also scoffed at Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling's declaration at a PLP rally March 16 that he would not hold general elections this year. Mr Whitfield told the FNM meeting Thursday that just as the 1967 Commission of Inquiry had felt that the Prime Minister was not being "wholly frank" with them then, he was "sure" the Prime Minister was not being "wholly frank" now.

He said all the FNM is concerned with in connection with the September 5, 1983 NBC report of allegations that Bahamian Government officials were involved in drug trafficking, is whether the report is true or not.

"The FNM is not interested in destroying the Bahamian Government," he said.

"What we are interested in doing is removing from the seat of power the men who presently bring our country into disrepute, who in fact cause in the minds of the American public suspicion and mistrust of the Bahamian nation," Mr

Whitfield said.

"And when he talks about: 'Election my foot,' let me tell you something, the previous Commission said he was not wholly frank when he told us about that. I am sure that he is not being wholly frank now when he talk about: 'Election my foot,' the FNM chairman said.

Mr Whitfield also asked what was wrong with the FNM having private investigators. He wanted to know why the official opposition party should not attempt to get information about what is going on in the country.

"And this only happened after Brian Ross made his expose, that was the bombshell, that was the bombshell that was dropped. Ain't no bombshell dropped in Parliament," he said.

"After the bombshell was dropped, every Bahamian was saying: 'I wonder if this is true?'" he said. "And if private investigators can bring out hard evidence, I would have been on Isaacs' neck if he didn't take that evidence from them people."

He said that no evidence was provided by the FNM to Brian Ross. He was himself surprised by the report, he said.

"The FNM would like to get the evidence, unfortunately we don't have it," Mr Whitfield said.

Mr Whitfield said that ZNS is a tool of the PLP and that it was through ZNS that the nonsense about the FNM supplying Ross with information was projected and created as something in the minds of the people.

He said there was nothing "stunning", as ZNS had

claimed, about the Prime Minister reading a letter Attorney General Paul Adderley had written to U.S. Attorney General William French Smith claiming that the FNM had supplied the information to Ross of NBC for the September 5 programme. He said there was no admission of guilt by the FNM.

He said Prime Minister Pindling had spoken as a leader of the PLP - not as Prime Minister - at the rally, yet ZNS had broadcast it the previous Sunday on "This Week In The Bahamas." He hoped they would do the same thing with Mr Isaacs' address.

Mr Whitfield said that all Bahamians will hear about from ZNS is what the Prime Minister had to said at Alice Town and Whymss Bight, Eleuthera, because all ZNS will be doing is using itself as a tool of the PLP.

"And I am saying to you now, if Brian Ross and NBC come and offer us radio time and TV time, Isaacs, boy let me tell you: We are taking that," Mr Whitfield said.

Referring to the March 22 edition of the Nassau Guardian in which an article stated that the Prime Minister wanted an explanation from Opposition Leader Kendal Isaacs, Mr Whitfield supplied the explanation for the Prime Minister.

To the Prime Minister's first question as to what Mr Isaacs, "the Christian gentleman," had gone to see a private detective for in the United States, Mr Whitfield answered: "To raise money to beat you with and to get as much information as we can."

To the Prime Minister's second question: "What does this

Christian gentleman want Mr Cherry to find out for him that he, Mr Isaacs, could not find out from official U.S. Government sources?" Mr Whitfield said that first of all, the official U.S. Government sources are not going to give out any information.

"And the answer to that is whether the Brian Ross report is true and whether there is any hard evidence to support it," he said. "That is what the good Christian gentleman and the rest of us want."

"What would a private detective in America want to do with the politics of the Bahamas anyway?" the third question asked.

"Nothing," Mr Whitfield replied. "Nothing whatsoever. And if you all have any private detective, I imagine that the answer to that would be the same."

The Prime Minister's fourth question asked: "What did this Christian gentleman do with the information the private detective gave him?"

"First of all," Mr Whitfield answered, "the private detective didn't give him any information, but if he had given him any information, if relevant, it would be handed over to the Commission of Inquiry and laid on the Table of the House of Assembly."

"Suppose the information spoon-fed to this Christian gentleman by the private detective is not true, what then?" the fifth question asked.

"You and your Cabinet and Government would be cleared," Mr Whitfield replied, then added: "Now I have got a question: Suppose the information supplied is true, what then Sweet Music Man?"

Foulkes on PLP 'Conspiracy'

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 26 Mar 84 pp 1, 4

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text] Opposition Blue Hills MP Arthur Foulkes declared Thursday night that there is a PLP conspiracy to divide and destroy the Bahamas and accused Transport Minister Philip Bethel of being the chief spokesman for Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling's plans of victimization and discrimination.

The FNM parliamentarian said that Mr Bethel has threatened opposition supporters in Eleuthera that they will not benefit from Government's housing scheme, and taxi drivers that PLP will "come first" when new licence plates are issued.

Mr Foulkes told supporters at a rally at the R M Bailey Senior High School Grounds that if Mr Bethel carries out his threats, the FNM will have yet another thing to demonstrate for, another cause to fight for and another reason to tell the Bahamian people to get rid of the PLP.

In his initial remarks, Mr Foulkes said that the PLP has accused the FNM of being part of a conspiracy, which is nonsense, but there is a conspiracy to divide and destroy the country.

"Look around you and you can see the results of the conspiracy," Mr Foulkes said. "You can see the Bahamas flooded with drugs, cocaine on every street corner. That has got to be as a result of a conspiracy."

He said that instead of the Bahamas Government making friends with "our old friend," the United States, it is doing everything in the world to provoke them, to chase them away and to vote against them in the United Nations when they came to this part of the world to "protect democracy and freedom."

"Unemployment has been a massive conspiracy ever since 1970 because it was then in '69 and in '79 that L O Pindling and his Government wrecked the economy of Freeport and in effect the economy of the whole country and we haven't recovered from that up to this day, and all the talk they talk still has not yet revived the economy," Mr Foulkes said.

"The result is that there are thousands, not hundreds but thousands of young Bahamians who have no jobs and have no prospects of getting any jobs as long as they are in power," he said.

"There is a conspiracy. The PLP are the conspirators and Lynden Oscar Pindling is the biggest conspirator of them all," declared Mr Foulkes.

Noting that it is sometimes said that "it ain't Pindling, it is those fellows around him," Mr Foulkes said that the Prime Minister has around him exactly who he wants.

"He picked George Smith (Agriculture, Fisheries and Local Government) as his Minister, not the FNM. He picked Kendal Nottage (Youth, Sports and Community Affairs) as his Minister. He picked Philip Bethel (Transport as his Minister," Mr Foulkes said.

"He has exactly who he wants around him and that is a wrecking crew who will finish ruin the Bahamas," the Blue Hills MP said.

He said that Mr Bethel, the Transport Minister, is taking over from Mr Nottage, "with his nasty ways, with his arrogance, with his pittishness, spitefulness, even his blasphemy."

"He has got the nerve to talk about our leaders as slime. The slime he sees on us is not on us. That's the slime that covers his face, that he's looking through," Mr Foulkes said. "He is not worthy to unlatch the shoes of the Leader of our party and the Chairman of our party. And if I see him getting anywhere near them I will keep him away because I know that some of the slime will drop on their shoes."

"Philip Bethel is a hypocrite of the highest order," Mr Foulkes declared. "He is supposed to be a preacher but he gets up and makes blasphemous statements that God gave this country to the PLP. Every Bahamian should vote against the PLP if only for that reason."

He said that Mr Bethel made the statement at the 1983 PLP convention and reiterated it again at the Friday, March 16 rally of the governing party at R M Bailey Auditorium, after having time to reflect on it.

"He repeated the same blasphemy, the same insult to those of us who are just as equal as any PLP in this country, this land of our birth," Mr Foulkes said.

"He threatens people with victimization, this Minister of God he's supposed to be, threatens the people in Eleuthera that those who are FNM will have no opportunity to participate in Government's housing. Slimy hypocrite!" Mr Foulkes said.

"I don't usually talk this strong about people in politics but I just feel that angry and fed up with this particular man," the Blue Hills MP said. In Mr Foulke's opinion: "He's worse than Kendal Nottage and that's bad, believe me!"

He said that every Bahamian has the right to equal opportunity in every and anything in this country, the right to aspire to be Prime Minister and a right to have a Government house if he desires it and if he qualifies for it, regardless of politics.

"And this man of God ought to know that if that is not democracy, that at least it is Godliness, at least it is Christianity. I am not a preacher, he is," said Mr Foulkes.

He also accused Mr Bethel of threatening the taxi drivers, the people who have been driving for years on somebody else's plate because they can't get a plate.

"That is grossly unfair and when the time comes to give plates to taxi drivers they should give plates to those people who have been in the business all these years and still have to drive somebody else's car," he added. "It is unfair, it is unjust, it is ungodly, it is unchristian, and it is very provocative."

"They do things with spitefulness and because they discriminate and Philip Bethel has become the chief spokesman for Lynden Pindling's plan of victimization and discrimination," he said.

"Even PLPs, who are decent men and women, come to a limit and can't look away anymore when their brothers and sisters are being persecuted and this thing, the taxi plate, is indeed a persecution, it has got to stop and I believe that our party will have a great deal more to say about this," he said.

"And if Philip Bethel, who is the Minister of Transport, carries out their threats then we will have yet another thing to demonstrate for, we will have another cause to fight, we will have another cause to tell Bahamians that they ought to get rid of Lynden Pindling and his group of rascals," the Blue Hills MP said.

"There is a consiracy, as I told you, to ruin the Bahamas. There is no other logical explanation for what is going on," he said.

PLP Rallies

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 26 Mar 84 p 1

[Text]

PRIME MINISTER Lynden Pindling on the weekend compared his PLP party to a ship, saying that the hull was secure, but moss needs to be taken off the bottom.

Sir Lynden was one of several speakers to address a political rally held in the PLP stronghold of Green Castle, Eleuthera, Saturday night. Another rally was held in Alice Town, also a PLP stronghold, the previous evening. However, it wasn't very successful because of driving rain.

Sir Lynden, who was 54 Thursday, told the Green Castle rally that the PLP's ship was in need of repairs for a journey into the New Frontier as it is customary that after a long voyage, one's boat must be hauled, scraped and repainted.

"Now the excercise (boat overhaul) is being put into operation. And the PLP vessel, secure though her hull may be, sound though her engine may be, yet the moss needs to be taken off the bottom," he said.

He also spoke of some people who think that they are "a little

too big" and have "too much money" for the vessel. He said these people want a new, untried vessel. He also spoke out against "shadows," an apparent reference to the shadow ministries assumed by the Opposition under the country's political system. He said people shouldn't put their trust in shadows.

Sen Ishmael Lightbourn told the Alice Town rally that the PLP had worked long and hard, and now the FNM wants to reap the benefits of their labour.

The only Cabinet Minister known to have accompanied the Prime Minister was Philip Bethel, Governor's Harbour MP, who in recent months has emerged as a strong ally of Sir Lynden. Also in the party was James Moultrie (Rock Sound), Peter Bethel (St John's), Valentine Grimes (Fort Charlotte), Charles Carter (Holy Cross), Sen Ishmael Lightbourne, PLP chairman Breville Hanna, Irington "Minky" Isaacs and other junior party members.

Isaacs Address

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 27 Mar 84 pp 4, 7

[Text]

THE SUM total of all the issues, FNM party Leader Kendal Isaacs told an FNM rally March 22, is not who gave Brian Ross and NBC information, but rather that the PLP government has failed and should be removed from office at "the very earliest opportunity."

The following is the complete text of Mr Isaacs' address:

PRIME Minister Lynden Pindling and his colleagues are shaking in their boots. With every day that passes they know they are that much nearer their day of reckoning. That day when they will face the people of this nation whose eyes at long last will be wide open.

As they contemplate the day when their power will be no more, they become desperate and frantic like cornered rats. Now they will pull every trick, raise every smoke screen, draw every red herring across the trail, do everything they can to take the minds of the people off the real issues facing the nation.

That is why we had that pathetic performance by Sir Lynden last week at R.M. Bailey Auditorium.

Incidentally, there used to be a time when all Sir Lynden had to do was make it known he was having a meeting. The crowds would be there to holler "All the Way."

Now he has to call his generals together from across the nation to make sure he can fill a hall. And even at that you can see that he is still troubled about the lack of response.

He suggested to the press how many people they should say attended the meeting. And at least one reporter is more than happy to oblige him. He says the crowd was twice what Sir Lynden himself saw.

Those of you who took the time to listen to or read what

Sir Lynden had to say will know that he dealt with not one single genuine issue. The whole object of the exercise was to blame the FNM for everything, smear the FNM as he has tried to do many times in the past, and generally to cause confusion in the minds of the people.

But I know that the Bahamian people are not the fools that Sir Lynden takes them for. They can tell the difference between sense and nonsense, and all he has been talking has been nonsense.

The issues are becoming clearer and clearer every day. Pretty soon even the blindest PLPs will be able to see them. Now, some of them will never admit the truth. They will continue to see the PLP as their religion and LOP as their god.

But many others are being honest enough, and caring enough, to admit that they have been betrayed. They are leaving the PLP in droves and flocking to the banner of the FNM. And more will come as the months go by.

So you can understand why Sir Lynden and his cohorts are so desperate. They cannot deal with the issues so they must try to discredit the Opposition.

Sir Lynden made great play over the fact that we have had people working for us in the United States. Of course we have!

Does he think that we as a responsible Opposition would not try to get information about matters which seriously affect our country? If that's what he thinks then he is being awful silly!

Does he think that my colleagues and I will not avail ourselves of expertise in the United States whenever we need to? If that's what he thinks then he must believe his own false propaganda that we are dumb!

There was a time when Sir

Lynden used to complain that he had no Opposition. Well by golly, he must know that he's got opposition on him now.

When the FNM was returned in 1982 as a united official Opposition, my colleagues and I in the House, in the Senate, and those outside, committed ourselves to take our responsibilities seriously. We vowed to carry out those responsibilities with all the strength we could command.

We have tried to do just that. We will continue to do just that. And we shall not rest until we have seen the last of this faithless, corrupt and incompetent PLP Government.

If it means going to Washington in the interest of the Bahamas, then we will go. If it means going to London, we will go. If it means going to Geneva, we will go. Wherever we see the need to go, we will go.

And as for collecting money to further our cause, why not? Sir Lynden and the PLP have been doing that from day one. They came to power mainly on money and assistance rendered by one Michael McLaney and Mr Pindling said after the 1967 election that he would have accepted help from the devil to get rid of the UBP.

We would much rather get our help first of all from God, then from decent friends who believe in the principles of democracy and who have good will for the Bahamian people. We will not accept help from people who only want a casino. And we will not accept help from known drug smugglers.

There were others who helped the PLP prior to 1967. There was David Probinsky, Lou Colosurdo, Tex McCreary and Paul Drake. Mr Drake is still in the good graces of Sir Lynden and Everette Bannister and helps them spread their pro-

paganda against the FNM at home and abroad.

Right now the PLP Government retains the services of a company called North American Precis Syndicated Inc. This company is in New York City at 201 East 42nd St., and their Overseer of Operations is one Ruth Stoolman.

So, have we used agents in the United States for fact-finding and fund-raising? Of course, we have. And we will continue to do so as the need arises. And we say to Lynden Pindling: So what?!

Now, did we give to the National Broadcasting Corporation the document or documents upon which, it is said, they based their September 5, 1983, expose? Or any other documents upon which they might have based subsequent news reports?

Sir, Lynden and Attorney General Paul Adderley say that - and I quote - "The NAADIS Report was given by Morgan Cherry to officials of the Free National Movement who together with Cherry gave it to Mr Ira Silverman, the Ross NBC producer in Washington."

The answer is: No! At no time prior to or after September 5, 1983 did that ever happen. And I believe that both Sir Lynden and Mr Adderley know that, wherever they might have got this from, it is a lie.

They say that Justice International and Mr Morgan Cherry had dealt directly with me. And that is true. But, you see, I never met Mr Cherry nor any of his associates until around the middle of October, more than a month after the first Brian Ross telecast.

As for Mr Silverman, I have yet to meet this good gentleman and I don't believe I have so much as talked with him on the 'phone. I was, however, interviewed by an NBC team on one of their visits here.

I think that was the same visit when they caught Deputy Prime Minister A.D. Hanna and some of his colleagues going into a downtown restaurant. You will recall that Mr Hanna was less than pleased.

If such a document had fallen into our hands I doubt we would have given it to NBC. The chances are that my colleagues and I would have taken it to Parliament and there demanded an investigation. So as much as they would like to give us the credit for starting this probe into drug smuggling in the Bahamas, we must in all honesty decline.

There is another point I would like to make and that is this: Why do they believe that we the FNM, with our limited resources, had to go to the United States and dig up information for NBC. NBC is one of the biggest news-gathering organizations in the world with hundreds of millions of dollars at their disposal; with thousands of people working for them around the globe; and with contacts at every level of the United States government.

Isn't it more reasonable to believe that they had the capacity to get such information for themselves? And isn't it more reasonable that the DEA agent they say they got it from did in fact give it to them rather than to Opposition politicians in the Bahamas? I think so, don't you?

My friends, you all know that as a result of the allegations broadcast by NBC last year the smuggling of drugs through the Bahamas and the involvement of any Bahamian politicians and officials, if any, in this nefarious trade, are being investigated. You also know that we are not at liberty to discuss the proceedings of the Royal Commission of Inquiry at this time. In due course, the Inquiry will make its report and we will then be free to deal with it.

But, in the meantime, all of us have eyes to see the multitude of problems which beset this country; problems which are in no way the doing of the FNM; but problems which are the direct creations of the PLP Government.

The massive unemployment which the PLP started back in the early seventies is still with us and, despite their frantic and misdirected efforts, is still

growing with every year that passes.

We know of the pain of unemployment being suffered by thousands of parents and thousands more young people. We know because they come to us every day looking and hoping for something to do. They want to make an honest living and thereby contribute to their own development and the development of their country.

The jobs are simply not there and all because the PLP government stopped the rapid expansion of the economy which was taking place 15 years ago. And they have not been able to restore the necessary rate because they do not have the confidence of enough honest investors.

We know that drug abuse has reached epidemic proportions in our country and that the government seems paralysed, unable or unwilling to take the steps necessary to deal with it.

For one thing, the existing medical and psychiatric facilities are totally inadequate to deal with the growing number of people who are falling victim to drug abuse. And among them is an appalling number of young people whose lives are being ruined.

There used to be a joke that if you missed someone out of Nassau, you would find them in Freeport. That was a happy joke. Now it is no joke at all to know that friends, relatives and fellow citizens are crowding the wards of our hospitals as a result of drug abuse.

This is a national emergency and we need to have the resources of the government, churches, civic organizations, youth organizations and so on, quickly co-ordinated and directed against this problem before it is too late.

It is already too late for some. Some have lost good jobs. Others have lost their lives. People in the medical profession have told us that suicide is on the rise among young Bahamians and one doctor said he knew of six in the course of six months.

Crime, especially violent

crime, is still with us. Our citizens are still being terrorized in their homes, on the streets, in their cars, everywhere. And saddest of all, our women and young girls are being brutalized by gang rapists.

I think it would be interesting to find out just how much of this violence and rape can be directly related to drug abuse.

As Mrs Bostwick has told you, we intend to bring this matter forcefully to the attention of the government in the hope that we will be able to move them to take some steps and in particular to increase the penalties for rape and sexual

molestation of infants. We hope you will all join us in this demonstration.

These are some of the issues - and only some - which face the Bahamas today and which, as I said, are the direct responsibility of the PLP Government.

The issue is not whether we FNMs have people in the United States working for us.

The issue is not who gave Brian Ross the documents for his expose. The sum total of all the issues is that the PLP Government has been an absolute failure and should be removed from power by the people at the very earliest opportunity.

Political Poll

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 27 Mar 84 pp 1, 12

[Article by Marcia Bethell]

[Text] A survey of about fifty persons, representing a wide cross-section of society, revealed today that Bahamians want a general election before the end of the year, but not before a decision is made by the Royal Commission of Inquiry.

Persons interviewed represented residents of the Grants Town area; members of the student body who have reached voting age; young and old, black and white, businessmen and women and Family Island residents who were stopped while walking on Bay Street.

Generally Bahamians are of the opinion that following a decision by the Commission of Inquiry, Prime Minister Pindling will be forced to return to the people for a vote of confidence in him and his government.

Many of them feel that an election should not be called before the Commission completes its work because a general election may "cover-up" the issues facing the nation at this present time.

"The Prime Minister will have to go back to the people before the year is out to find out if they have anymore confidence in him," a young businessman said when he was stopped on Bay Street and asked: "Because of the present situation in the country today, do you feel there is a need for an early election?"

Young and old Grants Town residents were interviewed while standing on a line waiting to collect food stamps at the Grants Town Urban Development Project building this morning. A large crowd of them created quite a commotion, pushing and shouting, to get their food stamps.

"Now is not the right time for an election. And even when one is called, I will be willing to die for my Prime Minister," an elderly lady said.

"No election, Pindling say 'election my foot' and what he says goes," another woman shouted.

"No election, I'm happy with the way things are," said a young girl standing on the food stamp line, holding a young baby.

And Althea Hanna, a strong PLP supporter said: "No election, the Prime Minister is doing an excellent job."

Students at the College of the Bahamas interviewed were not sure whether an FNM government would be the proper alternative to a PLP government. Some persons interviewed on Bay Street were of the same opinion.

"Now is not the time for an election because I don't think we can be sure whether the other party may be any better," the student said.

"Election now! Absolutely not because it won't make a damn bit of difference," a white Bahamian on Bay Street said.

"I feel that the FNM and PLP are the same. An election would not be necessary at this time because it would be like jumping from the frying pan into the fire," a business woman on Bay Street said.

Another student said: "An election would not be necessary because I think things will remain the same. If an election is called and a change is made, we don't know if the change will be for the better or worse, or whether the problems like drug trafficking will be solved."

However another student was of another opinion: "I think the Prime Minister should go back to the people and see how they feel about the present situation. After all they voted him in and at this time he has an obligation to go back to the people."

But another outspoken college student, ready to vote said, "We definitely should wait until after the Commission makes its decision and see whether allegations of corruption are true and then call an election so we can vote," he said.

"Of course we need an early election. The Prime Minister will have to come back to the people and see if they still have confidence. The reputation of our country has been tarnished and a vote of confidence in the present government is needed. But we should await a decision from the Commission," a young attorney said.

But a large number of persons walking on Bay Street, young and old, felt that an election at this time would divert attention from the issues at hand.

"No we don't need an election at this time. People will become too concerned with election issues and other issues will be pushed aside or covered up," a young man said.

"Yes an election is necessary because we can't keep going the way we are headed and I think one will be called before the year is out," a working woman said.

"Not necessarily at this time," another young woman said, "perhaps before the year is out. I feel that there will be a lack of confidence in the government or perhaps even a conviction of one or two. An election is needed, but not at this time."

"After the Commission is finished its work it probably will be necessary for an election to be called right away, but not now."

Another person who felt strongly that the Prime Minister will have to return to the people for a vote of confidence, was not sure whether the time should be now or later.

"Everything is so confusing. I really don't know. Certain things must be clarified first so that we can get a grip on things. Whether the time for an election is now or later, I don't know," he said.

However, another person felt just as strongly about clearing up the matters facing the nation now before an election is even discussed. And another young Bahamian did not feel that the opposition were ready to take on an election at this time, saying they may run the risk of losing those seats they presently have in Parliament.

At a PLP rally last week, the Prime Minister said that obviously the FNM had a clear plan to make the Americans feel that an election will be called soon in the Bahamas.

"Election my foot! What election?" the Prime Minister asked. "We just had one. Well you know even shadow goes to your head sometime. The shadow must be going to tell them when it's going to be. I know I ain't tell nobody, I ain't even tell myself," Sir Lynden said.

FNM Response to Pindling

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 29 Mar 84 pp 1, 4

[Text]

THE FREE NATIONAL MOVEMENT today urged Prime Minister Lynden Pindling to follow his own advice and examine his thought processes.

The FNM was reacting to remarks Sir Lynden made at political rallies in two PLP strongholds last weekend. It said that the campaign was to confuse and mislead the Bahamian people and to distract their attention away from the serious issues which con-

front the nation.

Said the FNM:

"One of Sir Lynden's tactics is to try to manufacture issues against the Opposition and in so doing he most often makes himself ridiculous. This was the case when he attempted to ridicule the Leader of the Opposition, Kendal G.L. Isaacs, by referring to him as 'a shadow.'"

"Sir Lynden's attack was

based on his assertion that Mr Isaacs had described himself as 'Shadow Prime Minister.' The truth is that Mr Isaacs has never at any time nor in any way whatsoever described himself as a shadow and the Free National Movement challenges Sir Lynden to produce evidence to the contrary. If he is unable to do so then he should apologize to the people.

"According to Sir Lynden, it was in a document filed with the United States Department of Justice that Mr Isaacs referred to himself as 'Shadow Prime Minister.' Sir Lynden has obviously seen a copy of that document and therefore knows full well that it was filed by Justice International and signed by officers of that organization.

"This document was filed in accordance with United States law by nationals of that country who had undertaken to assist the FNM with fact-finding and fund-raising in the U.S. Mr Isaacs was not present when it was filed and did not see it before it was filed.

"It should be obvious to a politician of far less experience and knowledge than Sir Lynden that the persons who filed the document were familiar with the Westminster system of democracy which we try to practise in the Bahamas.

"An established convention of that system is the formation of a 'Shadow Cabinet' by the Opposition, the 'Shadow Ministers' being assigned to cover respective Ministers of the Government in parliamentary debates and other activities.

"We do not refer to the Leader of the Opposition as 'Shadow Prime Minister' because he has an official and constitutional title. So it is a very small point that Americans could describe the Leader as 'Shadow Prime Minister' since he is indeed the alternative to the present Prime Minister.

"If Sir Lynden now wants to ridicule that system to make cheap political mileage, he is being quite in character since he and his Government have already done so much damage to the institutions and traditions of our democracy.

"Incidentally, we wonder if Sir Lynden saw in advance or was present in Washington when North American Precise Syndicate Inc. registered with the U.S. Justice Department as an agent of his Government.

"We also wonder whether Sir Lynden would have seen a related document on file which lists racist South Africa as one of the clients of North American Precise.

"The Prime Minister also made the claim that the FNM had got an agency in the U.S. to spread propaganda against the Government of the Bahamas. Again, we challenge him to produce evidence of one scrap of propaganda against the Bahamas Government which was circulated by Justice International on behalf of the FNM.

"This should be readily obtainable since it is required by the U.S. Foreign Agents Act that any such items of political propaganda be filed and made a matter of public record.

"The FNM has, of course, taken advantage of every opportunity to promote the best interests of the Bahamas to let our American friends know of our friendly attitude towards them and also to let them know that an FNM Government would welcome legitimate American investment in the Bahamas.

"There is nothing surreptitious about this and we would be happy to supply the Prime Minister with copies of FNM speeches and statements in pursuance of these objectives. All he has to do is have someone pick up the telephone and call us.

"Sir Lynden made one eminently, sensible statement in one of his speeches in Eleuthera when he said after all his nonsensical remarks: 'I gotta examine my own thought processes!'

"We urge the Prime Minister to take his own advice. The unravelling of his thought processes should explain a great deal about how he has brought such a beautiful country to such ruin as we see around us every day, and why. But he might need help in such an undertaking."

Call for War on Crime, Drugs

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 29 Mar 84 p 1

[Text]

OPPOSITION leader Kendal Isaacs has called on the various community leaders to join hands in an attack against unemployment, violent crime and especially rape and drug abuse.

Addressing the 63rd convention of the Church of God Tuesday night, Mr Isaacs urged Bahamians to face the future with courage, which is the theme of the Convention. He said character, education, commitment, and discipline are also essential for a successful and meaningful life.

And, he listed unemployment, violent crime, especially rape and drug abuse as three of

the multitude of problems that beset the country.

"It is imperative that Government agencies, the medical profession, civic organizations and most importantly the Church be brought together in a mighty co-ordinated assault on all these problems and as soon as possible," Mr Isaacs said.

"Many will be the times when you will be tempted to take the coward's course and surrender your principles. But, remember there will be no happiness in this. You have heard it said that cowards die many times before their death, the brave man tastes of death but once," he said.

CSO: 3298/743-4

RESORTS GROUP CONSIDERS BUILDING ATHOL ISLAND AIRSTRIP

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 23 Mar 84 p 1

[Article by Athena Damianos]

[Text] RESORTS International is investigating building an airstrip at Athol Island and connecting Athol to Paradise Island by bridge.

The idea behind this would be to bypass the congested Nassau International Airport and bring hotel guests to Paradise Island by way of Athol. It is understood that the project is under active consideration by Resorts.

The Tribune was unable to obtain details on the project. George Myers, president of Resorts International (Bah) was in office this morning, but not available to The Tribune for comment.

If a bridge is built over the Narrows, which separates the two islands, it is understood that boats using the busy passage will have a 35 foot clearance. Surveyors paths have already been cut in the bush at the eastern end of Paradise Island and the western tip of Athol.

There are two schools of thought on the matter. Nassau International Airport is very congested, particularly on weekends, and has to struggle to accommodate the traffic load. There are 1,500 new hotel rooms on Paradise Island and 700 rooms at Cable Beach, but nothing has been done to accommodate the extra air

traffic that they may generate.

There is also speculation that Chalk's, which has grown in popularity in recent years, may be interested in expanding the type of service it offers between Nassau and Miami. Michael Maura of Chalk's declined to comment on whether his company would be involved. He referred all questions to Mr Myers. However, whether or not such a plan would be approved in view of what it could cost the national carrier is another matter.

The idea of building an airstrip for Paradise Island traffic is not new. The concept was first introduced by Huntingford Hartford, who developed Hog Island into Paradise Island. It was recalled today that Hartford scrapped the idea because the island, which stretches one and three quarter miles in length, was too small and planes would only be able to land in one direction. Landings are usually based upon wind direction. In later years, Resorts wanted to build an airstrip on the eastern end of the island, but for various reasons never did.

It is not known what Government's involvement in the project, if any, will be. Athol Island is Crown land and any development would have to be done with Government's permission. This also raises the

question of whether there would be a bridge toll between Athol and Paradise Islands. When the \$2 toll fee was introduced for the bridge linking Nassau to Paradise Island, the idea was that motorists would pay until the bridge had paid for itself.

The bridge was constructed in 1967 at a cost of \$2 million, which was paid off two years later. It was reported in 1977 that Paradise Island Bridge Company took in about \$1 million annually in bridge tolls. If this figure is correct (and tourism has increased since then) it means the bridge has grossed \$15 million. Who owns the bridge now, and who benefits from the bridge toll are questions that ought to be answered.

A number of people have telephoned The Tribune to express concern about what may become of Athol Island. The callers are alarmed about the idea of an airstrip at Athol. They feel that not only would it be an eyesore, but that it would harm the environment and disturb the tranquility of the area.

Athol Island is already an eyesore. The south side of the island is littered with a rusting crane, scraps of metal, rusting boat hulls and other unsightly litter. Tourists on glass bottom boat cruises are confronted by this offensive sight every day, not to mention local boaters.

BANK DEVELOPMENTS: BAHAMIAN TAKEOVER, MISSING FUNDS

Commonwealth Industrial's Status

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 22 Mar 84 p 1

[Text] BAHAMIANS have taken over Commonwealth Industrial Bank, shortened its name and plan to make more loans available to Bahamians who want to "improve their standard of living."

Commonwealth Industrial Bank Limited - now Commonwealth Bank - 71% of the shares of which have been Canadian-owned since its founding in Nassau in 1960, is now 100% Bahamian owned.

The late Sir Roland Symonette originally held 29% of the bank's shares. The majority shares by a Canadian company later merged with the National Bank of Canada.

Early last year, Lady Symonette, who had become the beneficial owner of the 29%, offered to assist a group of Bahamians in joining her in the acquisition of the Canadian majority shareholding.

By February 1st of this year, the new shareholders had acquired 100% ownership of the Ordinary shares and had injected \$4,000,000 in additional capitalization through an issue of Preferred shares.

The present management will continue to conduct the affairs of the company under the direction of a newly-elected Board of Directors and new officers, hereafter doing business under the shortened name of "Commonwealth Bank," although the corporate name will remain unchanged.

The primary business of the

bank is consumer finance and mortgage financing of real property, which the new owners plan to maintain as the company's principal business activity. In addition, the bank's Bahamian-incorporated wholly-owned subsidiary, Laurentide Insurance & Mortgage Company Limited, provides credit life assurance in respect of borrowers from Commonwealth Industrial Bank.

The new owners plan to expand the scope of the bank's activities by offering additional financing facilities to its business, at the same time continuing to offer competitive commercial rates of interest to attract additional depositors and to attract a greater number of savings accounts.

This increase in funding, a spokesman for the Board said, "will enable the Commonwealth Bank to make more loans available to Bahamians seeking to improve their standard of living."

As of October 31, 1983, the end of its last fiscal year, before the infusion of new capital, the bank's assets and liabilities were \$14,376,596 of which \$2,272,148 represented shareholder equity.

As of February 29, 1984, the bank's assets and liabilities were \$15,914,178, of which \$6,699,354 represented shareholder equity.

The bank's head office is in Star Plaza, Mackey Street,

which also houses a branch office, managed by Mrs Vernita Thompson. Other branch offices are on Bay Street at Dunmore Lane, managed by Kenneth O'Brien, on Robinson Road, managed by CB Moss, and in the Arcade Building, Freeport, managed by William B Sands. Mrs Barbara Hepburn is the Chief Accountant.

The bank's officers are Chairman, Rupert Roberts, Jr, President, SuperValue Food Stores; President, Robert H Symonette, President, Bahamas First General Insurance Co Ltd; Executive Vice President & Managing Director, Vernon G R Beares; Vice President and District Manager, Trevor B Thompson; Secretary, Brent T Symonette; and Treasurer, Reno J Brown, Chairman & Chief Executive Officer, Charterhouse Japhet Bank and Trust International Ltd.

Other directors are Franklyn A Butler, President and General Manager, Milo B Butler & Sons Limited; M Jerry Hutchinson, Investment Manager, Bahamas, The Imperial Life Assurance Company of Canada; Lady Symonette, President, Symonette Group of Companies; Anthony A Thompson, formerly Director, Caribbean Development Bank and The Central Bank of The Bahamas; and Shervin W Thompson, President, Star Insurance Company (Bahamas) Limited and the Bahamas Chamber of Commerce.

Central Bank Shortage

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 2 Apr 84 p 1

[Text] A large sum of money has disappeared from the vault of the Central Bank of the Bahamas, THE TRIBUNE was reliably informed today.

A source said that the money disappeared from the same vault in which large amounts of cocaine, seized by the police, are stored. A formal complaint has not been filed with the Police Force. Central Bank Governor William Allen was not available for comment this morning.

According to a source, a large number of used notes, which had been withdrawn from circulation, were waiting to be destroyed when they disappeared from the vault. The commercial banks turn in old, worn money in \$1,000 stacks and are given credit for new notes. The source said that one side of the notes were cut to pass through a counting machine.

The source said that some of the missing notes have returned to the Central Bank through the commercial banks where they had been paid in. It is not known how much money disappeared from the vault. However, the amount is believed to be large.

The TRIBUNE's sources are wondering why a formal complaint has not been lodged with the Police and why the serial numbers of the notes have not been issued so that the public can watch for them.

Bank Governor's Follow-up

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 5 Apr 84 p 1

[Text] Central Bank Governor William Allen confirmed today that a sum of money has been taken from the Central Bank. However, he denied early reports that the sum involved was large; that it had been taken from the vaults and that the police were not informed.

On Monday a source told THE TRIBUNE that a large sum of money had disappeared from the same vault in which large amounts of cocaine, seized in police raids on drug traffickers, are stored. The source also claimed that a formal complaint had not been filed with the police.

Mr Allen denied all claims. He said that it was correct that a sum of money was missing. However, the amount involved is small. It was not correct that it was from the vaults, which are protected by a highly sophisticated security system. Nor was it correct to say that a formal complaint had not been lodged with the police.

"The police have been informed and they have been in on the matter from the very beginning," said Mr Allen. "I can assure the public that the matter is being actively investigated and that the law will take its course."

CSO: 3298/745

GOVERNMENT ISSUES STATEMENT ON THREATENED POULTRY INDUSTRY

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 30 Mar 84 pp 1, 4

[Text]

THE Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Local Government has said it is "greatly concerned" about misleading reference to its agricultural subsidies programmes. It said that "no bona fide" poultry farmer has been refused permission to import any items listed as duty-free.

The ministry's statement on Wednesday, March 28, was made in a press release to clarify several points in a Wednesday, March 15, article in the Nassau Guardian under the heading: "The Poultry Industry."

"From the outset, the Ministry has been made aware of the threat to the local industry which the poultry imports situation represented," the release stated.

It said that a number of meetings on the matter were held between members of the industry and the senior personnel of the ministry, and at all times the industry was kept well informed on possible measures that could be taken.

According to the release, during 1983, the Minister held discussions with leading food importers requesting their assistance in voluntarily reducing poultry imports.

"Regrettably, they failed to cooperate and importers were publicly warned of possible legal measures that would be taken to combat the problem," the statement said.

The ministry said that by mid-1983, it was readily conceded by local poultry producers that at that stage, only a few producers were being hurt by poultry imports.

Coupled with this, it added, the ministry, through generous promotional exercises, created the "Farmer's Market" for the poultry and other producers.

"This effort proved successful to the extent that one particular poultry farm ran out of chickens by mid-day on several consecutive Saturdays on which the Farmers Market was held," the release said. "This poultry operator then started started to actively discuss expansion plans rather than impending closure."

The release stated that in November, 1983, Broiler Association President Patrick Treco, also a member of the National Advisory Committee on Agriculture, advised Ministry officials that the source of cheap U.S. chicken had dried up and that the local industry was no longer threatened.

"It was nevertheless agreed that the measures proposed to combat the threat that had arisen, would still be proceeded with," the ministry said.

It noted that before proceeding with the proposed control measures, it was necessary to carefully study and evaluate several points, and that notably, most of these points have been satisfactorily answered and the

appropriate measures could be introduced in the near future.

"The Ministry is greatly concerned over the misleading reference to its agricultural subsidies programmes, including duty-free imports, since most bilateral and international agencies such as FAO, UNDP, ECLA, etc., indicate that our subsidies programmes, in comparison to those of other countries, are extremely generous," the statement said.

It also added: "The poultry industry is possibly the greater beneficiary of duty-free items amongst all others in the agricultural sector. In addition to an assortment of duty free items used in the local poultry industry, all baby chickens are permitted in duty-free.

"Further, they receive concessions on work permits (\$25 each) for non-Bahamian farm labourers."

The Ministry said that with all of the direct subsidies received, it is inconceivable how the poultry industry can make the claim that the Ministry does nothing for it.

"The Ministry can em-

phatically state that no bona fide poultry farmer has been refused permission to bring in any of the items listed as duty-free," it said.

The Ministry said that it is interesting that until very recently, all of the smaller poultry producers were concerned that in the face of competing imported poultry, the local giant poultry producer was systematically approaching customers of smaller producers and severely undercutting the smaller producers' prices.

"There were real fears that this may have descended to the offering of prices below production costs," it said.

The Ministry also lauded the fact that some poultry producers are now approaching the question of imports on a united front and wished the association every success.

"It is hoped that the association will work with the Ministry in a spirit of trust and cooperation so that all Bahamian poultry consumers might enjoy a product that is of acceptable quality and price," the ministry said.

CSO: 3298/745

BRITISH ASSESS POLITICAL SCENE, NEIGHBORING THREAT

London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 20 Mar 84 p 4

[Article by Christabel King]

[Text] **B**RTAIN is anxiously watching the lead-up to elections in Belize as they could topple the man who negotiated the secret pact which left a 1,800-man British garrison in the former colony.

Details of the pact were laid out in unpublished letters between Britain and Mr George Price, Prime Minister, at independence in 1981.

Mr Price, who is now in his early 60s, has been re-elected since internal self-government was introduced 30 years ago.

But now his People's United party seems to be facing a serious threat from the United Democratic party under the leadership of Mr Manuel Esquivel, a former teacher and businessman. There is little ideological difference between the two parties.

General elections are held at intervals of not longer than five years in Belize which means the election must take place before the end of the year.

Simple life

Mr Price started to train for the priesthood before he went into politics and still lives simply. Observers admire his

ability to hold together a party which has strong elements from both the Left and Right.

Most of his Ministers do not live so simply. Some Belizians, faced with serious economic problems because of the drop in the world price of their agricultural products, particularly sugar, are looking for new blood to solve their problems.

In the local government elections for Belize City at the end of last year, the opposition won all nine seats with large majorities.

It is said that whoever runs Belize City where a third of the 145,000 population live, runs the country.

The British fear that unless Mr Price plays some clever politics they will have to negotiate with a new group by the end of the year.

Mr Esquivel's party which has no experience in government believes that independence was a mistake and that the British garrison should stay for ever. This would be a difficult negotiating position for Mrs Thatcher who is only prepared to say publicly that the British troops should stay "for an appropriate" period.

The garrison is defending Belize against external aggression from neighbouring Guatemala which has territorial claims to at least a fifth of the country.

Observers are also concerned that a win for Mr Esquivel in the election would discredit Mr Price in the eyes of his party and give the Left wing a stronger position who could then possibly win a future election.

Internal problems

Guatemala, which already has its own internal problems with Left-wing guerrillas, would almost certainly invade Belize if the Left wing comes to power.

The new government of Guatemala, which has an army of 35,000, is believed now to be prepared to negotiate with Britain on the Belize issue.

In recent weeks they have signalled that they might be prepared to talk to Britain about reopening diplomatic relations.

Guatemala broke off diplomatic relations with Britain before independence, and negotiations have been forced to take place mainly at the United Nations in New York.

Guatemala is not prepared to talk to Belize which does not exist in its view. Maps in Guatemala show Belize as a province of their country.

FARMERS OPPOSE PEASANT AFFAIRS MINISTER'S NOMINATION

Cochabamba LOS TIEMPOS in Spanish 11 Apr 84 p 5

[Text] La Paz, 10 April--The confirmation of Jorge Medina Pinedo as minister of peasant and agricultural affairs by the president of the republic would mean the railroading of the peasant sector, which has consistently opposed that candidate for having no ties with rural workers, claimed Genaro Flores, executive secretary of the Single Confederation of Bolivian Peasants, today.

In expressing the rural sector's surprise at the plan to confirm the minister of peasant affairs, he announced that if it does take place, the problem will be studied at the national conference of peasants that will take place between 18 and 20 April in this city. This will be an opportunity for the peasants to take a firm stand against Minister Medina Pinedo, he stated.

He recalled that Medina Pinedo's nomination as minister of peasant and agricultural affairs had already been challenged at the meeting of rural workers that took place in the city of Cochabamba. He said that this minister is totally unfamiliar with rural problems, and the chief of state has been asked repeatedly to replace him because he does not represent the interests of the majority of the population.

Only One Agreement Fulfilled

Flores also expressed regret that the government has fulfilled only one of the commitments it made to the sector in writing, and at that with a lot of demands and pressure. The other proposals have remained mere promises on paper.

He indicated that the creation of CORACA [expansion unknown] was an agreement entered into with the government, but so far it has been unable to operate because it does not have an adequate infrastructure.

As for the peasant markets and the coadministration of the Single Confederation of Peasants, so far nothing has been done.

Finally, he mentioned the problems of agricultural prices, claiming that at the producers' end there have been no changes and that the middlemen have driven prices up constantly, to the detriment of the consuming public.

He also decried the fact that to date no rural infrastructure has been developed to enable peasants to bring their products directly to peasant markets for direct marketing.

MIR LABOR FACTION REJECTS ECONOMIC PACKAGE

La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 14 Apr 84 p 7

[Text] The Working Masses Front (FMO) of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) yesterday declared itself independent and in opposition to the government's economic policy, claiming that this policy "does not respond to the interests of the majority," but rather "primarily obeys the dictates of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)."

This decision, which means an internal rift in the party, was announced at a press conference yesterday by the principal labor leader of the MIR, Walter Delgadillo. Last Thursday he resigned his post as minister of urban development and housing.

"We do not back the government's action; we do not accept the economic package, nor do we support the action of the current MIR ministers in the government," he said, announcing that the workers' sectors of the MIR "will struggle within the party to restore the policy of defending the interests of the people."

Delgadillo, who was accompanied by the principal leaders of the FMO in the MIR, condemned the "blatant intervention" by the United States Embassy and the IMF in "the formulation of measures, going as far as to exert pressure to have Flavio Mechicado named finance minister to prevent the office from going to" two of the ministers originally proposed by that party.

"The ministers did not discuss measures; they simply approved what had already been drawn up ahead of time by Machicado, with the direct participation of ASOBAN [expansion unknown] and the IMF. The national leaders of the MIR were unaware of the measures before their approval," he asserted.

He said that the reincorporation of the MIR into the government had been predicated on the condition that substantial changes be made in the "economic package," but when it came time to make decisions, "the other MIR ministers did not carry out the mandate of the MIR leaders to demand those modifications."

Among the measures proposed by the MIR, he cited the defense of the sliding scale and the rejection of the bonus policy, the maintenance of subsidies for

staple goods, cooperation with the Bolivian Labor Federation (COB) and the Single Confederation of Peasants, the recognition of the legal status of CORACA [expansion unknown], the "drastic" reduction of the servicing of the foreign debt, and other measures. The MIR had even decided to propose strict controls over banking and the nationalization of "a bank that has seriously compromised itself with speculation."

Because it was impossible to adopt these measures, Delgadillo said that he chose to demand, in the Cabinet, "at least the maintenance of the sliding scale and the most important subsidies." He indicated, finally, that the decision for him to resign was made by the FMO board of directors.

He accused "part of the MIR leadership" of ignoring the decisions made by that party's leaders.

At the same press conference, German Monroy Chazarreta announced that the MIR regional board of directors of La Paz had decided to express "full" support for the FMO's position.

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CSO: 3348/395

SAN ANDRES UNIVERSITY STUDENTS SCORE COB-GOVERNMENT COALITION

La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 17 Apr 84 p 7

[Text] The Local University Federation (FUL) of the San Andres Higher University, in a document signed by Erick Rojas, asserts that the Bolivian Labor Federation (COB) "betrayed the workers when it temporarily broke off the strike that was underway and proposed negotiations with the government, based on the COB emergency plan."

It says: "Once again the aspirations of the exploited Bolivians who are fighting in the streets today against Democratic and Popular Unity's hunger-inducing package, have been thwarted. The union leadership's response does not reflect the tremendous repudiation and discontent expressed by the masses in their struggle."

It indicates that the workers have advocated for a long time that the government implement the vital minimum wage with a sliding scale in order to solve the economic problem.

"The COB's response to this request has been simply to implement the emergency plan that is based on the utopian idea of keeping prices frozen. This boils down to a simple reform of the current capitalist system, which can in no way solve the grave problems facing Bolivia."

The FUL document claims that the COB "is aiming at demobilizing the exploited, and for that reason it has declared a suspension of the strike until next Monday."

It states that the union leaders "are trying to reach an agreement with the government in which they would receive a small reward for distracting the unwary. We, on the other hand, have pointed out that what was really necessary was to call a general, indefinite strike to win the vital minimum wage and other demands."

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CS0: 3348/395

BRIEFS

VICE-PRESIDENT'S UPCOMING TRIP--The vice-president of the republic, Jaime Paz Zamora, will begin a tour of several European countries in June in order to obtain financing for some 200 socioeconomic development projects. The first vice-president of the Chamber of Deputies and chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR), Gaston Encinas Valverde, reported that a series of projects has been drawn up by the departmental Development Corporations. The current minister of planning and coordination, Ernesto Aranibar Quiroga, who is one of the MIR leaders, has also outlined a few immediate projects that are designed to overcome the crisis and the shortage of staple goods. It was learned that Vice-President Paz Zamora, armed with all this documentation, will visit France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Belgium, Spain, Sweden and Italy. [Text] [La Paz HOY in Spanish 13 Apr 84 p 16] 8926

CSO: 3348/395

EMFA HEAD URGES NEGOTIATION ON SUCCESSION, OTHER COMMENT

Honest Dialogue

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 29 Apr 84 p 4

[Article by Helio Contreiras]

[Text] "We urge the responsible and reasonable men of this country to negotiate a way out of the crisis, through reasonable and honest dialogue, with the nation's interest at heart," Brig Gen Waldir Vasconcelos, chief of staff of the armed forces [EMFA], said yesterday in an interview with O ESTADO. This is the first expression by a military minister in favor of broad negotiation regarding the presidential succession.

He affirmed that the negotiation proposed by President Figueiredo even involves the presidential succession, "because it is very broad and could and should be conducted on behalf of a goal which is not only the president's goal but the goal of all the segments of Brazilian society: consolidation of the democratic regime and full political normality.

"It is time for us to think responsibly about the fate of the Brazilian nation," General Vasconcelos said, and also emphasized the "fact that the president of the republic has advocated national conciliation from the moment he assumed office."

The minister said there is a consensus in the armed forces in favor of conciliation and of the goal of normalizing the country's political situation, but he observed:

"Now we must think with grandeur and realism. We cannot, for example, think we can return to the era of ancient Greece and attempt to define the bases for a harmonious Brazilian society in the public squares. We have a legislative body, inspired by Greek democracy itself, an institution which should represent the legitimate aspirations of the Brazilian people and make them come to pass at the suitable moments."

He added: "The rallies held in the public squares preserved the orderly climate characteristic of the nation, but the desire for direct elections is addressed in the constitutional amendment submitted to the legislative body by the president of the republic."

The statements by the chief of the EMFA reflect the consensus of the three armed forces in support of the negotiations. He stressed that the moment is favorable for negotiation because, among other things, the country is peaceful, and that this had been observed during the meeting of the military ministers this week.

Perspective

Although they admit that the country is peaceful for the moment, high military sources voiced concern yesterday over the possibility of public demonstrations, and even riots, as part of a protest movement which could only jeopardize the political negotiations.

This week there was no need of exceptional measures by the armed forces, not even in Rio or Sao Paulo, where the military adopted a professional attitude, without the emotionalism which always entails risk. The military who analyzed the application of the emergency measures advocated a temperate and moderate approach.

The emergency measures may even be revoked before the established period, depending on the negotiations or because this decision may even be necessary to broaden the prospects for the agreements.

High military sources, including close friends of President Figueiredo, admit that it is necessary to regain lost time; they recognize that the Figueiredo administration has had three distinct phases: the first one, prior to the death of Petronio Portella, when the possibilities of political coordination were broad; the second one, up to the departure of Golbery do Couto e Silva, chief of the civilian household, which was more farsighted and sensitive; and the third phase, with Professor Leitaó de Abreu as chief of the civilian household, a period in which, despite the minister's great culture, he lacked the taste and the disposition for political coordination, and the PDS [Social Democratic Party], the party of the government, became divided.

Up To Opposition

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 29 Apr 84 p 4

[Text] "Good Lord, don't ask me, ask the opposition!" That was President Figueiredo's reaction yesterday on being asked by a reporter from O ESTADO and JORNAL DA TARDE if he believed the opposition would negotiate with him. This was one of the rare occasions in which reporters managed to get close to the president and it happened during the president's visit to the Sixth National Rice Festival in Cachoeira do Sul Municipio, Rio Grande do Sul. As soon as he asked the question, security agents roughly pushed the reporter away and he did not hear the rest of the comments by the president, who continued walking beside Governor Jair Soares.

It was impossible to hear more than a few words, in an obviously plaintive tone: "I have been in the government for more than 5 years...." The security agents protested greatly to the reporter, claiming that attitudes like his--to ask such a question of the president of the republic--were harmful. There were threats to withdraw his press credentials to cover the president, and one agent, attempting to intimidate him, said he would be watching the reporter very closely: "We'll see if you ask any more questions."

Inflexible

Planalto Palace spokesman Carlos Atila said that, in President Figueiredo's opinion, the constitutional amendment submitted to congress proposing a series of reforms "already contains important concessions. It recognizes the general desire for direct elections and shortens the mandate of the next president by 2 years. It was a significant step closer to the position which the opposition parties hold. We are waiting for them to show the same spirit of conciliation and understanding which President Figueiredo has demonstrated. We are willing to compromise, and we hope the opposition will not be intransigent. If they want democracy, let them practice it."

According to the presidential spokesman, it is unnecessary to revoke the emergency measures in order to reach multiparty understandings in the congress.

He argued that, just as the congressmen "were not coerced in any way by the emergency measures in the vote on the Dante de Oliveira amendment, maintaining the emergency measures will not be prejudicial to them in a new political phase."

Atila added that the president feels his successor should have a 4-year mandate. "It is impossible for any government to formulate plans and carry out an administrative program in less than 4 years," he argued. "We must reconcile the need to solve the current political-institutional problems and the need to administer the nation's economic and financial affairs. A short term would be extremely unstable and the country's economic and financial situation is extremely serious, so there must be some continuity in the way it is carried forward."

Can and Must

Brig Gen Waldir Vasconcelos, chief of staff of the armed forces, stressed that the opposition "can and must" negotiate with the government regarding the Figueiredo amendment, arguing that it is "the mission of the parliamentarians to maintain continuing discussion." The minister also accompanied the president on his visit to the Sixth National Rice Festival in Cachoeira do Sul, and he was willing to discuss the current political situation. According to Vasconcelos, Figueiredo made a "very strong appeal for dialogue, for negotiation," in his message to congress proposing the constitutional reforms.

A reporter asked if the division within the PDS could weaken the government's position in the talks with the opposition. He answered promptly: "And are the other parties united? This is normal."

The general opposes the idea of a stop-gap mandate for the presidential succession. In his opinion, "it would not be good for the country; it is not in the nation's interest." He argued that, with a term limited to 2 years, the next president would not have time to accomplish anything at all.

Although he is opposed, the armed forces chief of staff observed that he was not in position to predict what agreements the congress would reach in negotiating the Planalto proposal, which calls for a 4-year mandate for Figueiredo's successor and direct elections in 1988.

Wait

Danilo Venturini, special minister for land affairs and secretary general of the National Security Council, believes that the government must now wait for the proposals to be offered by the political class in the form of subamendments to the government amendment and must examine them before taking a position. "We are going to wait," the general said.

Thus Venturini avoided commenting on the possibility of negotiation between the government and the opposition parties in the congress, arguing that "we have to allow things to reach a more solid footing before bringing up the issue; otherwise we could even restrict the field, which President Joao Figueiredo would like to keep as broad as possible, for the negotiations. What the president wants and is always reiterating is [expressed in] that celebrated declaration of the outstretched hand." Also according to Venturini, there is no validity to the opposition's criticism that General Figueiredo withdrew his outstretched hand when he decreed the emergency measures.

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CANDIDATES' POSITIONS AFTER DEFEAT OF AMENDMENT DISCUSSED

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 29 Apr 84 p 5

[Article by Carlos Chagas: "Candidates Trying to Survive Impasse"]

[Text] Uncertainty, disinformation, hesitation and fear, although they still try to give the opposite impression: these are now the marked characteristics of the four presidential candidates who, a month ago, were going around the country and mobilizing the PDS [Social Democratic Party], certain of victory and in the knowledge that one of them would succeed Gen Joao Figueiredo.

Each in his own way, the candidates are no longer certain of anything, much less of remaining candidates. They could always recover because, in Brazilian politics, anything seems possible. Most probably, however, they have narrowed their sights and put away their dreams of occupying Planalto Palace on 15 January 1985. They have been waning since the nation, en masse, took to the public squares to demonstrate for direct elections. Not by coincidence, everything began to become clear during the week of the rally attended by a million people in Candelaria Square, and became clearer when the multitude closed on the valley of Anhangabau. Early on Thursday morning, with the vote on the Dante de Oliveira amendment, the candidates were no longer candidates. Everywhere, the order of the day was negotiation, immediately. In that negotiation, there will be no place for them.

Nonetheless, deaf to the clamor which the terms of the succession had unleashed, Paulo Maluf, Mario Andreazza and Marco Maciel, each in his own way, attempted to revive hopes and create the conditions to resume their campaigns. More temperate, Aureliano Chaves reiterated to the president on that same day that he was prepared to withdraw his name, if the others did so as well, in favor of a national agreement on a consensus candidate.

For the next 2 weeks or more, the candidates tried to behave as if nothing had happened in the country, as if, because the worst (for them)--an immediate return to direct elections--had not happened, the course of the succession process could take the same direction as before. The former governor of Sao Paulo is gambling on time and inertia. He believes that the constitution was preserved with the defeat of the Dante de Oliveira amendment and that, come September, the PSD national convention will decide everything. Mario Andreazza spurns consensus, although not publicly, believing that the PSD convention delegates

cannot be replaced through an agreement at the top. The party must have the right to choose the candidate to compete in indirect elections, and if a fifth name appears, it will simply be the fifth name. He expects to have the declared support of the president of the republic, at the right time. Marco Maciel is wagering on a reversal of expectations. He was the weakest of the candidates but, in view of the recent changes, he imagines that he could emerge as the consensus candidate, with the backing of a variety of forces.

Consensus Is Dictatorship

Paulo Maluf has been the most active of all the candidates in recent days. He has met with deputies, called together his high command and mobilized aides. He believes, as his campaign chief Heitor de Aquinas has made known through the press, that the great national succession accord will run up against the same opposition as always, and that the PDS will still name the candidate in September.

The former governor of Sao Paulo told O ESTADO:

"We must honor and approve President Joao Figueiredo's amendment, and for this reason, I am in favor of a broad dialogue between the government and the opposition parties. The Dante de Oliveira amendment which was defeated yesterday would have changed a single article of the constitution, reestablishing direct elections this November. For years, the opposition has complained that too many powers were in the hands of the executive, and when it argues for revision of just one article of the constitution, it is also indicating a desire to exercise democracy on just one day every 4 years. The authoritarian powers would remain in place if President Figueiredo's amendment is not approved, and if the Dante de Oliveira amendment had been approved we would arrive at the paradox of choosing a dictator by direct election. In the amendment proposed by the president, the prerogatives of the congress are reestablished and many other essential revisions are included. With this amendment, we could arrive at a constitution which could endure for generations. It looks to the future.

"Democracy is the rule of the majority. Dictatorship is a regime of unanimity. Anyone who desires unanimity desires a dictatorship. In the United States, at this moment, we are witnessing the Democratic Party primaries for its convention. Once the results are known, all the candidates will unite behind the winner. So I believe in consensus, but only after the PDS convention. Any other formula will mean that we are not following a path to democracy."

He concluded:

"I am sure in my mind that the party convention will be held on 5 September. The man who wins will be the candidate. I will not renounce my candidacy; I will not sign a blank check. I have never signed one in my life. How can anyone accept the idea of a fifth candidate, a consensus candidate, without knowing who he will be? It might be a personal enemy of mine and I could not accept him. Just imagine if Franco Montoro were in the PDS and if his name emerged finally as the fifth candidate? In short, the constitution is safe; the opposition did not come up with the two-thirds needed to change it, but the government

forces will not be able to do so either, if the purpose is to change the succession picture. In this case, negotiation will not be the answer, and the stop-gap mandate is ruled out, because the president himself is against it. I repeat: consensus is the stuff of authoritarian regimes. Majority rule is appropriate to democracies."

Against Stop-Gap

Mario Andreazza remains cautious, resisting the temptation to come out with strong criticism of consensus and its authors, particularly in palace circles. He believes that patience is still his highest trump; at a certain point in the process, when there is no possibility of a definite agreement on a new solution, the president of the republic will finally publicly back Andreazza as the alternative to stop Paulo Maluf.

These days, the behavior of the interior minister and the former governor of Sao Paulo is very similar; they will probably meet to talk things over this week. Whether or not there is a dialogue between them, they are united in their attempt to preserve or restore the status quo prior to the national campaign for direct elections.

Andreazza should soon be traveling to the northeast and will hear that the majority of the governors in the region still support him. A few days ago, however, he turned down a meeting with Gen Golbery do Couto e Silva, the spokesman for Paulo Maluf, who indicated he would like to meet with Andreazza. Andreazza also preferred to wait for a more opportune time to meet with Governor Tancredo Neves. He clings to the belief that the rules of the succession game were not revoked but rather confirmed by the defeat of the opposition proposal for immediate direct elections.

His aides confide that, in Andreazza's opinion, to seek an agreement with the opposition parties on a so-called consensus candidate would be tantamount to betraying the PDS, which, according to the constitution as it now stands, should name the future president of the republic. The party has a majority in the electoral college and the PDS convention delegates should choose the candidate by free, democratic and, most emphatically, secret ballot. The leadership can only follow the rank and file. Agreement must come later, with the name finally chosen as the most viable candidate. To do otherwise will be to give the opposition parties a prerogative which is not theirs, since they are the minority. Andreazza heard from the president of the republic that it is really definite that a 4-year mandate will be established for his successor. In his opinion, there is no possibility of establishing a stop-gap mandate for 2 or 3 years, which would also constitute a disaster of Olympic proportions for the country. Hence Andreazza will remain a candidate and will seek to resume the former pace of his campaign.

In an official note released Friday, Andreazza refrained from any outright criticism of the possibility of an understanding on the choice of a new presidential candidate. He responded indirectly to those who wanted such an understanding, noting that real understandings are reached on the basis of ideas and solutions, such as the resumption of economic growth and the renegotiation of the foreign debt, better income distribution, a continuing process of redemocratization and reduction of regional inequality. He reiterated what he called

a firm, unshakeable and steadfast determination to go to the PDS convention to seek the nomination. Translation: he will not succumb to appeals to withdraw his candidacy, even if they come from Planalto Palace.

Continue or Stop

Senator Marco Maciel begins his reasoning where the other two candidates end. He believes a new climate has been created for negotiation and understandings, and not just with respect to the president's amendment. The dialogue must also involve the succession process, under the coordination of the chief of government. There he sees his chances growing. Of the majority party candidates, he has had the least support. With any change in the picture, his position will improve, in the event that his name becomes influential in effecting a reformulation.

He does not oppose a fifth candidate, but he will continue to seek the nomination. He does not intend to abandon his candidacy, but to try to strengthen it through the agreement which he sees as approaching.

Aureliano Chaves ordered part of his campaign office shut down on Thursday, it was said in Brasilia. In a unique gesture, campaign chief Ney Braga advised businessmen who had been making monthly contributions to the campaign to contribute less this month. At the same time, many of the office staff are being dismissed.

Realistically, the vice president feels he will not get to Planalto Palace by way of the campaign trail but only by way of an understanding, if he is included in it. He remains where he has always been, as he reiterated to Figueiredo 3 days ago. He will not stand in the way of any grand solution capable of delivering the country from the crisis. He was not born president and he will return to private life in all tranquillity, but he demands that the other candidates withdraw, as well.

An advocate of immediate direct elections, he accepts the formula proposed by Planalto Palace for 1988. He believes in dialogue with the opposition parties and, where he is concerned, he is prepared to participate, without premises or presuppositions other than the nation's interests.

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OBSTACLES TO INCREASED TRADE WITH JAPAN VIEWED

Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 20 Apr 84 p 14

[Text] Sao Paulo--Although the Brazilian Government is interested in increased trade with Japan, there are major barriers to be overcome, since there is a "mutual lack of knowledge" between the two countries, observed Kagetaka Toyama, president of Brain Integrated Communication. The Visconde de Cabo Frio Foundation (the major function of which is to provide services to Itamaraty) has asked Toyama to correct this situation.

Toyama is a descendant of a family of Samurais; his father was a former mayor of Chiyoda, the major district of Greater Tokyo, and held that post for 18 years, always through direct elections. Toyama does not think that President Joao Figueiredo's visit to Japan, from 20 to 26 May, will significantly change this picture. "It will, however, be an important test of what can be done to improve relations between the two countries through the proper use of communications."

Powerful Lobby

Kagetaka Toyama is supervising the special edition of BRASIL magazine, published by the Visconde de Cabo Frio Foundation, which will be distributed while Figueiredo is visiting Japan. Moreover, through Itamaraty, he has placed the relationship between the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Brazil and Japan's government and private agencies at the disposal of the Brazilian Government. Among those agencies is the powerful Keidarem, a kind of confederation of Japanese companies, which the government always consults before taking any economic step.

"I also intend to make use of the lobby which I represent with those entities and with the Japanese politicians, among whom I have several friends," added the president of BRAIN, a communications firm whose clients are basically affiliates of Japanese companies in Brazil.

Toyama noted that Japanese imports are not restricted, owing to international pressures on the country because of its continuing and high trade balance surplus. "Japan buys almost everything, especially minerals and agricultural products, but even today the Japanese know very little about Brazil's potential in these and other areas," the businessman commented.

'CACEX' HEAD DISCUSSES FORMATION OF LATIN AMERICAN COMMON MARKET

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 27 Apr 84 p 25

[Text] Brazil's trade balance will show a surplus of \$900 million in April, increasing the positive balance to \$3.3 billion for the first 4 months, Carlos Viacava, director of CACEX [Foreign Trade Department of the Bank of Brazil], predicted yesterday in Sao Paulo. According to Viacava, the figure for this month will be lower than the \$1.02 billion in March, "but sustains our optimism regarding the goal of \$9.5 billion at the end of the year."

Viacava said that the balance will be somewhat reduced this month because exports will fall slightly short of the initial estimates. He noted, however, that the April result will be 12 percent higher than the surplus achieved in the same month in 1983.

The CACEX director is optimistic about the trade balance, declaring that the country is adopting a suitable exchange policy for increased exports, and is also seeking to intensify trade relations with Latin America. In this regard, he was pleased with his visit to Argentina and Uruguay this week. "In both countries, we encountered a desire for increased trade with Brazil and specific measures to this end have already been taken."

In Argentina, Viacava succeeded in obtaining a far-reaching agreement, which established, among other things, that the Argentine Government would lift the barriers to marketable products.

In addition, the Argentines agreed to pay on demand for Brazilian products, dropping the 90-day credit period. The two countries agreed to analyze an agricultural-livestock accord, facilitating the purchase of these products in the two markets.

Common Market

Enthusiastic about these decisions, Viacava said the agreement could be the nucleus for the formation of a Latin American common market, similar to the EEC. "We need to do more business with Latin America, especially Argentina and Uruguay, because it is in their interest and ours. Everyone will gain by this strategy, which is an encouraging option in light of the current difficulties in international trade."

He assured that this time the agreements with Argentina would be implemented, going beyond "expressions of intent" to increase trade relations between the two countries. "Now we have specific points defined and others which will be in effect within 30 days, at most."

With respect to Uruguay, he foresees another agricultural-livestock agreement and assures that this is an advantageous market. Brazil already has almost 50 percent of the Uruguayan automobile market, but could do better, reversing the present trend toward stagnation in trade between the two countries.

Regarding businessman Laerte Setubal's criticism of the government's export policy, Viacava declared: "He is right, up to a point, when he says that Brazil does not have an export policy. It should be remembered, however, that the country is suffering reprisals in its foreign trade precisely because it has had good results."

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UNIVERSITY DENOUNCES GOVERNMENT INTERFERENCE

San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 2 Apr 84 p 39

[Text] Background

Since it was founded in 1841 the University of El Salvador has been identified with the highest interests of the people of El Salvador. It has maintained its creative mission and its mission of transmitting science and culture while defending the rights of the people who support it, denouncing and combatting the abuses which the different governments have committed.

Due to this critical attitude of guidance and open opposition, the University of El Salvador has been considered the enemy of the governments in power, and hence of the ruling elite, and has been subjected to consequent repression during all of its existence.

This repression has been worse during certain periods, especially during General Martinez' dictatorship (1931-44), during the government of Col Jose Maria Lemus (1960), during the government of Col Arturo Armando Molina (1972), and finally during the Revolutionary Junta Government period (1980). These periods of greatest repression of the university community have coincided with generalized repression of the Salvadoran people, underlining the identification of the University of El Salvador with its people.

Military Intervention on Campus

The most recent and prolonged military intervention on the University of El Salvador campus began on 26 June 1980. It has taken place within a framework of multiple abuses against the people of El Salvador (the bloody breaking up of demonstrations, persecutions, assassinations, arrests, disappearances, oppressive economic measures and so forth).

In 1979, the University of El Salvador had recovered its autonomy and had again elected its authorities after undergoing military and executive intervention by the state since 1972. A year after the university crisis was overcome and while the institution was making maximum efforts to carry on its academic work, military intervention was made on the allegation of the supposed use of the university as a center of subversion.

History showed soon enough that the justification was baseless since the country's crisis is not and never has been an accomplishment of the University of El Salvador, but is due to the serious state of permanent social injustice. Contrary to the expectations of those who intervened, the political-military agitation has become more intense and general even though the campus of the University of El Salvador has remained under military occupation for almost 4 years.

University Activities in Exile

The university, conscious of its great responsibility as the main center of learning of the country's higher education system and in spite of the occupation of the campus and the destruction of its patrimony, resolved to continue its patriotic work even under these most precarious conditions, to which it has admirably adapted.

The first step was the programming of the completion of Cycle I of the 1979-80 school year which was interrupted by military intervention and the resolution of the academic status of 28,449 students registered in that cycle.

Then an intermediate cycle was conducted and then Cycle II for 1979-80. This demonstrated the institution's capacity to function and the students' support of their university.

The 1983-84 academic year was carried out including a new influx into university classes of 16,499 students for Cycle I and 13,155 for Cycle II.

During the present 1984-85 academic year, the university has admitted 8,854 new students in addition to the 13,805 students who were previously enrolled bringing the total to 22,659 active students for this school year.

From 1980 to 2 March 1984, the University of El Salvador has graduated 2,689 professionals and has continued its activities of cultural advancement and social outreach.

Harassment of University Community

The response to the responsible and courageous attitude of the university has been more repression:

- a) Physical destruction and continuous looting of the university's patrimony.
- b) Wholesale founding of private "universities" without any quality control.
- c) Arrest of the University Superior Council.
- d) Suspension of salaries of the authorities.
- e) Drastic reduction of the budget.

f) Accusations that the entire directorship of the university belongs to revolutionary organizations.

The gravest repression is:

g) Physical elimination (by kidnapping, arrest, faked trials and so forth) and psychological repression of its members. This aspect of the university harassment is continuous and cyclical. Periods of less intensity coincide with the times during which new economic and military loans are to be granted to the Salvadoran Government.

More university members have been arrested and assassinated this month. It is to be feared that this is the beginning of another cycle of disregard for the life and security of the Salvadorans.

Conclusion:

Present conditions at the University of El Salvador (closing of the campus, destruction of the patrimony, cutting of the budget, repression and so forth) are the direct responsibility of the current government and of all the political parties which make it up. Thus it is an outrage that during the recent electoral campaigns these parties promised to settle the university problem, without mentioning the decree of a year ago, issued by the National Constitutional Assembly, ordering that control of the campus be transferred to its authorities. It would appear that it is necessary to accede to the presidency of the republic in order to accomplish such a transfer although once in that office it might be decided to intervene militarily.

Hence:

In view of this new danger, we alert the university community to remain vigilant and as of now we denounce, before the national and international organizations who watch over respect for human rights, the threat hanging over the university community members.

In addition, the University of El Salvador denounces the political parties which during the recent election campaign made a great issue out of the conditions at the University of El Salvador and promised to settle the institution's problems for which they are fully responsible.

No political party has the moral right to use the University of El Salvador as a campaign issue since all the accomplishments during this period are the result of the great efforts and dedication of the entire university community.

University Superior Council

San Salvador 26 March 1984.

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THREATS TO PEACE SPUR MEETINGS, PPP ATTACKS ON PNC

Role of GCSP

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 25 Mar 84 p 1

[Article by Lindsay Davidson]

[Text] The upcoming Congress of the Guyana Committee for Solidarity and Peace (GCSP) next month is seen as a very significant and timely event as the threat to peace in the Caribbean looms greater.

High on the agenda of the meeting of peace forces is the threat to peace in the region.

Considerable attention will also be given to the events which led to the October invasion of Grenada by US-led forces.

According to President of the GCSP, Elvin McDavid, one of the aims of the Congress is to help create a basis which will lend support and solidarity to progressive governments and forces in this hemisphere.

Guyana has been in the forefront in voicing its objections to suppressive regimes, the violation of peace and to breaches of the sovereignty of some states by others.

Being a consistent supporter of peace generally and to peaceful settlement of disputes, Guyana's hosting of the Congress represents tangible evidence of its commitment to the easing of tensions which threaten to plunge the world into violence.

Themed "In defence of national sovereignty and peace in the Caribbean and Latin America" the four-day congress will set the stage for the participants from different backgrounds to pool their experiences and thoughts to come to grips with a common problem--the cancer of imperialism in all its various manifestations.

It is expected that the Guyana Peace Council (GPC) headed by Dr. Cheddi Jagan will participate in the Congress and in the solidarity rally at the end of the Congress, reflecting the common anti-imperialist position of the two main peace forces in Guyana.

According to Cde. McDavid, the invitation is a manifestation of a coincidence of views between the GCSP and the GPC which is an extension of the Minority People's Progressive Party (PPP).

The GCSP which has numerous affiliates in Guyana is an affiliate of the World Peace Council (WPC). Cde. McDavid, having been elected to the Presidium of the WPC, in 1976, is still a member of that body. (GNA)

Status of Peace Council

Georgetown MIRROR in English 25 Mar 84 p 4

[Text] The Guyana Peace Council has issued a press release setting the record straight, in order to correct an erroneous impression being given to the public by the PNC-controlled Guyana Committee for Solidarity and Peace (GCPS).

According to the GPC, the GCPS has been saying that the GPC is to play an important role in the planning and organising of a "solidarity meeting of peace forces and a solidarity rally." Said the GPC:

The GPC has taken no such decision. The GPC will not be treated as a rubber-stamp. It is now being invited to plan and organise a solidarity meeting and rally, after all the decisions had already been taken months ago by the GCSP. And the occasion is the upcoming annual congress of the GCSP.

It is regrettable that the GCSP is following in the footsteps of its parent, the PNC, which seeks hegemony over, and the subordination to it, of all genuine organisations.

Before the GCPS was formed, the PNC had agreed at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in the presence of the World Peace Council delegation (with WPC President Romesh Chandra in the chair) that a six-man Committee (3 PPP and 3 PNC) would be set up, firstly for a signature campaign for the Stockholm Appeal against the nuclear bomb, and secondly to work out ways and means of bringing the PNC into the Guyana Peace Council.

Soon after the WPC delegation had departed, the PNC reneged on the agreement reached: it claimed that it was the government and must have a majority in the Committee. The 6-man Committee was thus aborted and the PNC proceeded to set up the Committee for Solidarity and Peace.

The GCSP seeks to make the GPC an appendage of itself. The GPC, which has antecedents as an organisation older than the PNC, is prepared to work with all progressive forces for disarmament, peace and liberation, but will not permit itself to be used simply to foster the interests of the ruling party.

PPP Motion in Parliament

Georgetown MIRROR in English 25 Mar 84 p 2

[Text] Observing the precarious state of affairs in the world arena, and the dangerous tilt taken by the Reagan government towards nuclear confrontation with the USSR, an unprecedented arms build-up, etc., the PPP is initiating action in Guyana to help strengthen peace, and reduce the arms stockpiles. A motion to this effect has been tabled in Parliament by Dr. C.B. Jagan. It says:

WHEREAS the World Congress for Peace and Life, Against Nuclear War, held in Prague, Czechoslovakia from June 21 to 26, 1983, attended by over 3,600 participants, representing over 1,840 national organisations, including organisations representing women and youths, scientists, physicians, artists, writers, journalists, religious bodies and political parties (including Guyana) and also representatives of the United Nations and its specialised agencies, made the following Appeal:--

"Humanity stands at a crucial crossroad of history. One step in the wrong direction--and the world could be irrevocably thrown into the abyss of a nuclear war.

"Never before has the arms race, especially the nuclear arms race, reached such threatening proportions as today. All negotiations for the limitation and reduction of armaments are in fact being blocked. New military programmes are being approved. Additional weapons of mass destruction are being designed. Attempts are made to impose on people the idea of the 'acceptability' of nuclear weapons, of the possibility of carrying out a 'limited' or 'protracted' nuclear war.

"Explosive situations exist in various parts of the world, above all in the Middle East, Central America, Southern Africa, South-East Asia and Far East. Aggressions are committed against sovereign states. Military conflicts between different countries are provoked from outside, thus hindering peoples in their just aspirations for political and economic independence, national sovereignty and territorial integrity, and endangering world peace. The network of military bases on foreign territories is expanding.

"An especially acute danger is represented by plans to deploy new first-strike nuclear missiles in Western Europe. The realisation of these plans will sharply increase the danger of a nuclear conflict. Such a conflict will not be limited to the continent of Europe, but will lead to a global holocaust. It is urgent to stop the deployment of missiles in Europe, to reduce all nuclear arms on the European continent and to work for the total elimination of all nuclear weapons throughout the world.

"Being extremely concerned by the increasing danger of nuclear war and realising our great responsibility to safeguard peace, we have gathered at the World

Assembly for Peace and Life against Nuclear War from 21 to 26 June in Prague, the capital of Czechoslovakia. We are citizens of 132 countries of the world, peoples of various races and nationalities, of different philosophical views, religious and political positions. We represent 1,843 national organisations, trade unions, peace, Women's, youth and students' movements, political parties and churches, 198 international nongovernmental organisations. Representatives of 11 inter-governmental organisations also took part in the Assembly.

"We declare:

"Preparation of nuclear war is the most serious crime against humanity. But war is not inevitable. It is not yet too late to prevent a nuclear holocaust."

GCSP Leader's Address

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 25 Mar 84 pp 4-5

[Text] The Guyana Committee for Solidarity and Peace (GCSP) will hold its Annual Congress, and host a Solidarity Meeting of the Peace and Solidarity forces of the Caribbean and Latin America and a Solidarity Rally from April 13. The Theme of the Congress and the attendant activities is: In Defence of National Sovereignty and Peace in the Caribbean and Latin America."

Our Congress comes at a time when imperialism is on the offensive in the region and poses a threat to every sign of independence, progress and self-reliance. The rape of Grenada, the imposition of a dictatorship on the people of El Salvador, the threat of military intervention in Nicaragua and all the other forms of instability in our region are ample testimony of this fact. The events display a preference by the current U.S. administration for the exercise of the military option rather than other internationally accepted forms of diplomacy and other mechanisms of peaceful settlement.

We feel that the peace in our region has been breached in real terms and we submit that there must be solidarity among the peace and solidarity forces in order to uphold ideological pluralism, ensure Caricom continues to exist in its present form, to guarantee the independence and security of small states, to ensure the creation of a zone of peace in the Caribbean and last but not least to maintain the very dear principles of Non-Alignment.

Accordingly, my organisation has invited some forty Peace and Solidarity Movements from the Caribbean, Eastern Europe, Asia, Latin and Central America, the World Peace Council, based in Helsinki, Finland and the Solidarity organisation of the Peoples of Latin America, Asia and Africa based in Havana to participate in this activity.

In addition to the Foreign invitees, the thirty-three local affiliates of the G.C.S.P. will also participate in the Congress. The Guyana Peace Council, which is an extension of the People's Progressive Party, the Honorary President of which is Dr Cheddi Jagan, Minority Leader, has been invited to play an important role in the planning and organisation of and, participation in the, Solidarity meeting of Peace Forces and the Solidarity Rally which will

be held at the end of all the events. This invitation, which we hope will be accepted is a manifestation of a coincidence of views between my organisation and the Guyana Peace Council on issues to be discussed during our deliberations and a common anti-imperialist position.

For Guyana and for the region as a whole we see this Congress as being very timely, indeed. This is because the event will:

(i) Attempt to bring together peace and Solidarity Organisations from the Region to study, discuss and consider the threat posed by the policies of the present U.S. Administration.

(ii) Seek to give as wide publicity as is possible, through a multiplicity of shared experiences and statements, to the cancer,--imperialism in all its various manifestations.--

(iii) Help to create a basis which will lend support and Solidarity to progressive governments and forces in this hemisphere.

The official opening and launching of this big event will take place at Guyana National Service Sports Complex on Carifesta Avenue on Friday 13th April, 1984. We expect that the main address, which will provide a sense of direction to the deliberations will be given by a senior member of the ruling Party and Government.

A review and stock-taking of the activities of the GCSP over the past year and the formulation of a work programme for 1984 will constitute the major activities of the first part of the programme, which is the Annual General Meeting, on Saturday, April 14. Additionally officebearers will be elected to man the 1984 work programme while the meeting will also seek to make amendments to the current GCSP Constitution in order to ensure more effective functioning.

The second event of the programme for that weekend will be a meeting of Peace and Solidarity forces of Latin America and the Caribbean which will take place on the Sunday 15th and Monday 16th at the National Service Sports Complex.

At the end of the meeting of Solidarity and Peace forces it is proposed to have a Solidarity rally at the exhibition centre at Sophia on the evening of Monday April 16 and we hope that this rally will not only be addressed by one of the most senior members of the ruling party and government but we also hope that a representative of the Guyana Peace Council as well as the representatives from overseas and local participants in the Congress will bring greetings.

This event at Sophia will bring together all the peace forces, foreign and local, and members of the Guyanese community in a show of togetherness against imperialism.

Following the events of the weekend, our foreign guests, will be offered an opportunity to see our country and to meet and talk with Guyanese in Regional communities in a series of past Congress rallies.

For our own people, April is a month of great significance because it was during the month of April that:

--The attack on Dageraad in 1763 under Accara took place, in the Berbice Slave Rebellion.

--In 1924, 13 Guyanese were shot and killed in the Riot at Ruimveldt.

--In 1815 the Act for the manumitting of slaves was passed by the Court of Policy.

--In 1764 Atta, the supreme chief of the rebels was captured in the Berbice Slave Rebellion.

--And in 1812 the Colonies of Demerara and Essequibo were definitely and completely joined into one and Georgetown was made the Capital of the new United Colony--Demerara.

Ours has been a long struggle for freedom and determination. Many obstacles have been put in our path. And now, more than ever it is crucial that considerations, be given to the various steps that should be taken to ensure that we maintain our hard won freedom.

Review of Regional Tensions

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 25 Mar 84 pp 1, 8

[Text] (NNS)--There are widespread fears in the highest quarters around the world, that the two major Powers, the USA and the USSR, can become deeply involved in developments taking place in Central America and the Caribbean.

At UN Headquarters, representatives of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, and other countries, fear that the Region can experience considerable difficulties in struggling to become a Zone of Peace.

The Guyana Government, with People's National Congress Leader, Cde Forbes Burnham, as President, has been struggling at every level to see the Caribbean and Central America remain as an area free from external interferences.

Today's Presidential Elections in El Salvador, may provide peace-loving citizens, with an answer.

Events of the fortnight preceding the Elections, have been gloomy.

However, diplomatic sources here, and in Washington, D.C., disclosed: Embassies and High Commissions in the region have been advised by their respective Governments, "to keep a sharp eye on all delicate happenings that can contribute to crises in the Caribbean and Central America."

References have been made to a chain of events taking place in the region and, to events relating to the region.

Relationship between the United States of America and Guyana is not of the very best. This is due to no fault on the Cooperative Republic's part.

Relationship between the USA and Suriname has been strained for a long time. It is now improving.

In Central America, antigovernment personnel stepped up activities, on a big scale, in pro-USA El Salvador, and pro-Soviet Nicaragua. The United States of America and Honduras also stepped up military exercises. And all this, only days before the El Salvador elections.

Western and Eastern diplomats noted that developments, concerning the region have also been taking place in Guatemala. That government took the opportunity to make some noises over its territorial claims on Belize--the only CARI-COM state in Central America. Many observers linked the Havana talks between President Castro of Cuba and Dos Santos of Angola, as a feature that increased tension in the Caribbean.

It cannot be argued that the issues discussed do not involve both the USSR and the USA.

Fears of confrontation and tension in the Region increased during the past week when a Soviet oil tanker was damaged in an explosion, 40 miles from Managua, capital of Nicaragua. The incident was caused by mines laid by forces opposed to Nicaragua's present Government. Five Soviets were injured.

The incident triggered bitter verbal exchanges between the United States and the Soviet Union.

Three Soviet warships led by the powerful helicopter carrier "Leningrad" are reported to have arrived in Caribbean waters.

It cannot be justifiably said, that an increase in US naval forces in the Region at this time, helps to create the atmosphere for a Zone of Peace.

An experienced diplomat from a Non-Aligned State said, "Aftereffects of the invasion of Grenada, coupled with the riotous El Salvador Presidential Elections, appear to have cornered the USA and the Soviet Union, into preparing for the very worst, in Central America and the Caribbean." He declined to elaborate.

During past years, President Burnham's government persistently said: Guyana is a Non-Aligned country. In the game of power politics, the Republic will not be pawn for the East or the West.

[Editor's Note: Also on page 1 of the same issue, just next to the start of the above article, NEW NATION carries a photograph of Elvin McDavid and the headline "The GCSP President," under which appears the following text:]

Cde Elvin McDavid, Chairman of the Guyana Committee for Solidarity and Peace, is also an elected member of the Presidium of the World Peace Council. The other Guyanese member is Dr Cheddi Jagan.

Ode McDavid's election to the Presidium dates back to 1976 and since then he has been re-elected to this body each year, the most recent being at a meeting of the Presidential Committee World Peace Council in Prague, Czechoslovakia.

He is also Chief Political Adviser to President Forbes Burnham and an appointed member of the Central Committee of the People's National Congress.

PPP Rejoinder

Georgetown MIRROR in English 1 Apr 84 p 1

[Text] The People's Progressive Party in a week-end press statement noted 'with disgust a further shift in PNC foreign policy, a continuation of the regime's syndrome of vacillation. In an article in NEW NATION, 'Tensions in the Region Approaching Flash Point,' the PNC comes on again with its 'two imperialisms' line. It seems clear that the PNC is again bowing to U.S. pressure. The statement continues:--

The article says in part: "Many observers link the Havana talks between President Castro of Cuba and Dos Santos of Angola as a feature that increased tension in the Caribbean."

This is both mischievous and not reflective of the true position. Castro and Dos Santos in their concern for a peaceful solution of the teeming problems in Southern Africa mutually agreed to a pull out of Cuban troops from Angola if racist-fascist South Africa allows Namibian independence.

In the same issue of NEW NATION, Presidential Advisor Elvin McDavid said, in part,...."imperialism is on the offensive in the Region and poses a threat to every sign of independence, progress and self-reliance....The events display a preference by the current US administration for the exercise of the military option rather than other internationally accepted forms of diplomacy and other mechanisms of peaceful settlement."

The two contradictory positions in the official organ of the ruling party reflect the vacillating nature of the PNC itself. This is a variant of the old reactionary pro-Chinese pro-US 'two superpowers two imperialisms' line which the PNC has manifested on many occasions in the past. In this line, both the imperialist USA and the socialist USSR are equated as the same.

In his address to the Supreme Congress (16/12/83) President Burnham made dismaying comments when he said: "The great powers while supposedly negotiating general disarmament and the limitation of strategic and intermediate nuclear missiles, have been carrying out contradictory exercise of hurling insults at each other, and in some quarters we are entertained with the concept of 'balance of terror' to ensure peace.

Over the radio could frequently be heard the grossly nauseating "Viewpoints" by Ian McDonald on the same reactionary wavelength, prattling about "twin bullies" and deeming both the USSR and the USA to be equally responsible for world tension and the tension in the Caribbean. But it is becoming ever clear

to all and sundry today that the USSR is the foremost peace champion and it is the USA which is responsible for growing world tension!

It is not mere coincidence that in the same March 25 issue of NEW NATION the PNC indicated that the IMF is to soon hold further talks with the Guyana Government. The PPP notes that Guyana indeed needs a lot of credits, loans and grants in foreign exchange to get out of the rut it is currently in. By inserting a pro-imperialist article in NEW NATION at this time of financial stringency, the regime may well be paving the way for collaboration so as to obtain the IMF green light.

The PPP warns that vacillation in favour of and collaboration with imperialism cannot save Guyana. The country will only sink deeper and deeper into the mire.

Jagan Attack on U.S. Threat

Georgetown MIRROR in English 1 Apr 84 p 4

[Text] PPP General Secretary and Opposition Leader Dr Cheddi Jagan wants the strongest possible protests against the "adventuristic and dangerous activities" of the United States in the Caribbean. The Guyanese Marxist leader was at the time commenting in a statement issued yesterday from his Freedom House headquarters on the announcement of plans for a massive U.S. military exercise in the Caribbean Basin on April 20--May 6.

The announcement said that over 30,000 U.S. military personnel from the navy, marine, air force and army will take part. They will be supported by battle-ships, including the USSR America Aircraft Carrier, shock troops of the 82nd Airborne Division (which took part in the invasion of Grenada), and 250 aircraft of the Strategic Air Command.

This show of strength, according to the State Department, is signalling Washington's willingness to use military force to support pro-imperialist right wing regimes in the Caribbean described as 'our friendly neighbours.'

Another reason has been given for the exercise, code-named 'Caribbean Calendure 82': the protection and maintenance of the free use by the United States of the sealanes of communications in the Caribbean Basin and the Gulf of Mexico.

In his reaction Dr Jagan dubbed the latter reason "specious" said he: "No one is threatening those sea lanes. The U.S. administration is building up a bogey man only to find an excuse for heightening tensions and aggravating cold war hysteria in the region."

Dr Jagan sees the manoeuvre as designed to intimidate Cuba, Nicaragua and the revolutionary, progressive and democratic forces in El Salvador and elsewhere. Right now, he pointed out, President Reagan is requesting a \$93 million package of aid to CIA controlled counterrevolutionaries in Nicaragua and the military fascist regime in El Salvador.

The PPP General Secretary also sees the planned Caribbean exercises as part and parcel of the world offensive of US imperialism against peace and progress.

"The USA, in its winnable limited nuclear war strategy, deploys Cruise and Pershing II missiles in Western Europe which are aimed at attacking in 5-6 minutes the Socialist Community and destroying existing socialism, but puts on an air of injured innocence when the Soviet Union retaliates. It claims to support the peace initiatives of the Contadora Group (Mexico, Panama, Colombia, Venezuela), but actually relies on military solutions to existing problems, as its illegal invasion of Grenada."

Dr Jagan concluded that these military exercises are not intended to protect the rights either of the American or the Caribbean people. "The people of the United States and the governments and people of the Caribbean Basin must register their strongest protest to these adventuristic and dangerous activities of the hawks in Washington."

CSO: 3298/749

WPA ISSUES STATEMENT ON GOVERNMENT HAITIAN REFUGEE 'PLOT'

Georgetown OPEN WORD in English 26 Mar 84 p 1

[Text] The Working People's Alliance released a lengthy statement over the weekend exposing a plot by the Guyana government in collaboration with the Haitian President for Life to settle over 10,000 Haitian peasants in the disputed Essequibo region of Guyana.

OPEN WORD #107 printed a letter from an overseas Guyanese based in Manchester, England about a scheme for settling West Indians in Guyana. This paper will continue to investigate and give full publicity to all schemes of this government.

Speaking of the immigrant Chinese restaurant keepers who have been settling along the coast, about which there has been "no official statement explaining where and what these immigrants, not lacking in financial resources, are fleeing from," the WPA said that they can "hardly change the political fortunes of the PNC" but "a secret plan for mass migration is another thing."

"Dictators negotiating between themselves for the transfer of over 10,000 peasants from Haiti to Guyana will be acting in the interest of their own dictatorial powers and not in the public interest. This is the fundamental ground of our objection."

Recalling the Jonestown tragedy, the proposals to settle Hmong here and plans by a previous government to establish Mauritians in Guyana, the WPA statement showed concern about the secrecy of the migration plans.

The party stated that it has "full sympathy with the plight of Haitians, especially those persecuted by the dictatorship" and that it "accepts that countries have a duty to assist the UN in finding political asylum for refugees." The WPA appealed to poverty-stricken Haitians "not to sell their precious lives into indenture to earn foreign exchange for Burnham and a breathing space for Duvalier."

The statement asks whether this "secret plan to settle thousands of Haitians in Essequibo will not embarrass the UN Secretary-General now supervising delicate negotiations between Venezuela and Guyana." It points out that mass immigration is being considered at a time when Guyanese, tormented by the "ban on accustomed staple foods...the policying of their daily lives, increasing malnutrition, rising infant mortality and overall death rates, and official disrespect for life--are fleeing as fast as North America will accept them."

CSO: 3298/749

JAGAN TAKES ISSUE WITH CRITICS, DEFENDS PPP STANDS

Georgetown MIRROR in English 25 Mar 84 p 3

[From the "Straight Talk" column by Cheddi Jagan: "Towards Liberation"]

[Text] The enemies of the PPP are busy again with their lies and distortions. Paul Tennessee's sheet, the DEMOCRAT of March 1982 charged: "PPP incite PNC to murder Tennessee and repress DLM." This was after he claimed to have been blindfolded and interrogated by the police for 5 days.

Straightaway, let me state that the PPP is opposed to all undemocratic, police-state methods of the PNC regime. And this applies to all victims, be it Tennessee or otherwise, and regardless of his rightist/racist associates, past and present.

There is also the insinuation that the PPP is not interested in the people because it did not join the WPA signature campaign for food. What's the truth? The PPP had told the WPA that it had already been involved in a countrywide campaign on the same question. The PPP refrained from reminding the WPA that they had opposed, when working with it in the 1978-79 period, signature campaigns on the ground that persons could be identified and victimised by the PNC regime.

Mandela

And recently I saw a letter which attacked me and the PPP for propping up the PNC. "Why are you joining with the PNC in its free-Mandela campaign," the writer asked.

First of all, let's put the record straight: who is joining whom? And joining for what? Take the Mandela freedom question. It's the PNC which supported the PPP in its resolution in the National Assembly on February 15, 1984.

Incidentally, that motion calling on the South African fascist/racist regime to free patriot Nelson Mandela was first submitted to the National Assembly by the PPP in June 1981. But the motion was not put on the Order Paper for debate and it lapsed. It was reintroduced in 1982. Again it lapsed, and it was dealt with only after reintroduction in 1984.

Differences

It is not important at this time to ask why the PNC put the PPP motion on the Order Paper in 1984 and not before. Whatever the reason, it is good that all parties--right, centre and left--took a united stand against fascism and unanimously passed the resolution.

Now, as regards being together with the PNC on some issues. This happens on occasions like the time of the US invasion of Grenada. Previously, on foreign issues like China-Vietnam-Kampuchea and Afghanistan, conflicts and the Malvinas (Falklands) war, the PPP and the PNC were on different sides.

It is necessary to look at the situation in Guyana without emotion. There are some who are unable or unwilling to look at things objectively and dialectically. Thus, they take a rigid, even a sectarian, position.

So far as we in the PPP are concerned, the struggle is waged on two fronts--national and international: national, against PNC minority government, authoritarian military/police and bureaucratic/administrative methods of rule, political and racial discrimination, corruption and extravagance, and for a better life for the Guyanese people; international, against imperialist domination and exploitation and for peaceful coexistence, detente, disarmament and peace.

Mobilisation

We see as our duty the mobilisation of all forces to fight on both fronts: This is not an easy task. Some are willing to fight on one front only, either the national or the international.

For example, the Vanguard for Liberation and Democracy (VLD) made up of the Liberator Party (Drs. M. Richmond and G. Kumar), the Working People's Vanguard Party (Brindley Benn) and the People's Democratic Movement (Llewellyn John), generally does not wish to take an anti-imperialist position. They concern themselves almost exclusively with national issues. In the case of the US invasion of Grenada, the VLD did not respond to the PPP's invitation to picket the US Embassy (Brindley Benn alone on behalf of his party the WPVP joined the picket line with the PPP and the WPA). Similarly, when the Guyana Peace Council invited all parties and organisations--WPA, VLD, Committee for Solidarity and Peace--to speak at the Bourda Mall against US threats to Nicaragua, the VLD did not respond.

Struggle

We will continue to work on the basis of unity and struggle. In practice, this means cooperating with any party or organisation, or section of any party or organisation, on any progressive or revolutionary cause. It also means opposing those who take reactionary positions.

And because some parties have dual trends or tendencies, it means strengthening the progressive and isolating the reactionary trend.

In the case of the PNC, while we have common cause to work for the release of Nelson Mandela, we continue our struggle of many years for democracy, free and fair elections, and against discrimination, corruption and squandermania, and to make anti-imperialism irreversible.

At the same time, the PNC must be criticised for their sectarian and hegemonistic attitudes. They feel that because they are the government, they must dominate and dictate. They don't or do not want to, understand what "consultation" means. This attitude was seen most recently in the formation of the Nelson Mandela Freedom Committee. They bypassed the Committee In Solidarity With Southern Africa, a subcommittee of the Guyana Peace Council, and formed the Nelson Mandela Freedom Committee. And they refused to make the Committee truly national by inviting all political parties and social organisations. The sooner the PNC realise that they control the state apparatus only and a very small minority of the people, the better for Guyana and the Guyanese people.

And they must not only focus on Africa, South Africa's continued detention of Nelson Mandela and its pressures on the frontline African states are only part of the strategic plan of imperialism as evidenced by its aggression and pressures in the Caribbean and Central America, Afghanistan, Kampuchea, Falklands and the deployment of US Cruise and Pershing II missiles in Italy, Great Britain and West Germany.

CSO: 3298/749

ROLE OF PEOPLE'S CO-OP UNITS EXTOLLED, CRITICIZED

Regional Consultations

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 1 Apr 84 p 8

[Text] "People's Co-operative Units, which will number in excess of 750, are intended to accelerate the development of the spirit of co-operation among our people and to promote co-operativism as a unifying principle in the total development of the nation."

If the foregoing reads and sounds like just another bit of idealistic rhetoric, fears are quickly dispelled after speaking with the officials concerned who are quietly but assiduously working to lay solid foundations for the establishment of the People's Co-operative Units.

Being the base sector of the six levels of Local Democratic Organs, these officials who even now superintend the fortunes of Regionalism, are attached to the Ministry of Regional Development. In keeping with the provisions of the Local Democratic Organs Act (No 12) of 1980, Co-operative Units are to be the singular, most effective manifestation of genuine "people's power."

According to a knowledgeable spokesman from the Ministry of Regional Development, "Article (71) of the Constitution in stipulating that local government is a vital aspect of socialist democracy, places the aspirations of the people in a legal framework and brings into being a revolutionary system of local government."

Further, he pointed out, "these People's Co-operative Units are intended to unite and to organise people in such a way that their civic consciousness would be heightened and their inter-independence recognised. It is intended to foster community pride and cohesion and to provide practical opportunities for the purposeful involvement and participation of citizens in the management and development of their communities. Within this context, the People's Co-operative offers great scope for people to be actively involved in the decision-making process as it pertains to the dispensation of their civic obligations as well as the promotion of their own self-development, self-reliance and self-confidence."

Gearing itself for the task ahead, the Regional Development Ministry is in the process of consulting Regional bodies throughout the country in an effort to advise those authorities as to the procedures to be implemented in establishing the already-demarcated Co-operative Units. Painstakingly, Regional Authorities are to persuade communities of people, that contrary to malicious rumours, People's Co-operative Units are in their interest and are not partisan or political entities to benefit any one group. These Co-operative Units, it is stressed, are to give the Guyanese people the privilege of conceptualising what is needed for their respective communities, planning and administering their own local affairs, then inviting the "professional planners" to come in to assist.

In a real sense, the social and economic development of the nation will actually and literally be in the hands of the people. All Guyanese are alerted to be ready to inform themselves about these People's Co-operative Units, the real basis of local democratic (people's) power.

Queries From WPA Organ

Georgetown OPEN WORD in English 2 Apr 84 pp 1, 3

[Text] The GUYANA CHRONICLE yesterday has made it clear that the ruling party is taking new steps to tamper with the freedom of Guyanese. They seem to be drunk with success after the passage of the Labour (Amendment) Act.

A very garbled report on page 8 of the SUNDAY CHRONICLE speaks of some mysterious officials who are "quietly but assiduously working to lay solid foundations for the establishment of the People's Co-operative Units."

What are these unnamed officials who are paid by the Guyanese taxpayers doing? Why are they doing public business "quietly"? Are they by any chance breaking the law?

The report excels itself for double talk when it says that these officials who are also the supervisors of the regional systems, are consulting regional bodies in order to "advise those authorities as to the procedures to be implemented."

Where in fact does the consultation come in?

Then we are told of the "already demarcated Cooperative Units." We should like to know: demarcated by whom and to whom are the demarcations known?

There is no law in Guyana about local democratic organs as they are falsely called empowering these demarcations to be hidden from the people.

Guyanese organisations have been too sluggish about these plots. Only one organisation has raised the issue. Since then the matter was dropped from public mention. There is now the need to keep the words, "People's Co-operative Unit," in the public mind--but only the words.

If any one had told trade unions that a Bill would be passed to take away their bargaining rights in the public sector, the ruling party would have denied it.

Those who have ears to hear, let them hear.

According to the constitution local government bodies can be given powers of coercion to which so many Guyanese seem to have become accustomed. They can order the family about, they can order individuals about, they can make decisions on motions that are binding on all.

The gold smuggling, corruption, the types of cases in the courts, the way the increments issue was handled--all show that the ruling party has one relationship with the people: a relationship of force.

The ruling party is searching for a way to make the Guyanese people at the grassroots level do its bidding. This is not something we can afford to ignore. The best minds of our country must begin to study the moves.

Many think that they are unaffected by local government except in the matter of rates and taxes. Especially in towns, people think the place is too big for individuals to be ordered about.

The move is to divide the big places into a lot of little places and then apply the force.

"Local democratic organs shall organise popular cooperation in respect of the political, economic, cultural and social life of their areas..." (Article 73).

"Parliament may provide for local democratic organs to take decisions which are binding upon their agencies and institutions and upon the...citizens of their area" (Article 75).

What can these words mean?

CSO: 3298/749

DETAILS FROM TRIAL OF PAUL TENNASSEE REPORTED

Witness Testimony

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 23 Mar 84 p 3

[Text] The trial of Paul Tennessee, on charges of making a false declaration and importing Guyana currency into the country began yesterday before Principal Magistrate Desmond Burch-Smith.

The second witness, Yameer Baksh, an officer of the Customs and Excise Department testified that Tennessee, an incoming passenger at Timehri Airport on February 9, had presented to him a declaration form with \$858 (US) declared on it. The witness stated that no other currency had been declared on the form, the original of which he gave back to the defendant.

Under cross-examination, Baksh accepted that since the defendant had declared only foreign currency, it would have been necessary for him to go out of the Customs Department to get money to pay any duty then assessed. But he said that the defendant had not told him he was going outside to get such money. And further, he was unaware whether Tennessee indeed did so.

An Immigration Officer, E. Belgrave, the first witness, testified that the defendant had arrived at Timehri Airport on February 9, that he had stamped the defendant's passport and that Tennessee had then moved on to the Customs area. Cross-examination of Baksh continues today.

Final Witness

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 30 Mar 84 p 3

[Text] The trial of Paul Tennessee yesterday continued with the third and last witness, Corporal Linden Brown testifying how he had searched the defendant at Timehri Airport on February 9 last.

Tennessee is charged before Principal Magistrate Desmond Burch-Smith with making a false declaration and importing \$40 (G) into the country.

Corporal Brown is attached to the CID at Timehri. He told the court that he approached the defendant after Tennessee had left the area where duties were

normally paid. He said that the defendant had gone to the duties' section, after his luggage had been checked by a Customs officer.

The witness stated that he took the defendant into the Immigration Office and conducted a search of his person. He found a wallet in Tennessee's pocket which contained \$848 US and \$40 (G).

The Corporal said that he then examined the defendant's declaration form and after he noticed that only \$858 US had been declared, he told Tennessee of the offence which had been committed and cautioned him.

The trial continues on April 10.

CSO: 3298/750

WAGE QUESTION TAKES SPOTLIGHT; LABOR BILL AMENDMENT HIT

Government-TUC Committee

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 25 Mar 84 p. 1

[Text] A Government-TUC technical committee examining increased wages for the public sector has been given until tomorrow to submit its recommendations to top-level representatives of the Government and the Guyana Trades Union Congress, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning announced yesterday.

In a statement, the Ministry also explained that the Guyana Government intends to have wage adjustments eventually agreed on apply retroactively as from January 1, 1984. [as published]

The statement said the Government-TUC team is undertaking its task within the context of the economic and financial realities and a consensus that priority action needs to be taken in respect of those categories of employees which are deemed to be most disadvantaged.

Following is the statement:

"In keeping with the undertakings given by the Cde. Minister of Finance and Economic Planning in the 1984 Budget speech, a team comprising Government and TUC top-level representatives began discussions on Saturday, 10th March on the principles which might be applied to remuneration adjustments for implementation in 1984.

"These discussions are intended to assist the Government, public sector corporations and agencies, and trade unions in concluding, in a speedy and satisfactory manner, negotiations for wage increases for the year 1984.

"As indicated in the Budget speech, these adjustments have become necessary in the wake of the price rises which are attributable in part to the recent devaluation of the Guyana dollar in relation to the US dollar.

"The TUC-Government team is undertaking the complex task of determining what factors should be taken into account in making these adjustments and what mechanisms might be most usefully applied in implementing them.

"The team is addressing these considerations within the context of the economic and financial realities and a consensus that quick priority action needs to be taken in respect of those categories of employees which are deemed to be most disadvantaged.

"This difficult task of attempting to identify categories of employees to whom special attention should be paid is being assisted by a technical committee of six persons comprising an equal number of Government and TUC representatives. The committee will rely on relevant inputs from TUC affiliates to arrive at its recommendations, and has been given a deadline of 26th March, 1984 by which to report.

"The Government intends to have wage adjustments eventually agreed on apply retroactively as from 1st January, 1984.

"The team will reconvene as soon as practicable after the deadline of 26th March given for the technical committee's report." (GNA)

MIRROR Assessment

Georgetown MIRROR in English 25 Mar 84 p 1

[Text] Despite assurances by TUC General Secretary, Josheph Pollydore, that the current government/TUC wage adjustment talks would not harm negotiations between employers and individual unions, fears have been expressed by several unions as to the possible serious implications especially since the passing of the Labour (Amendment) Bill in Parliament last week.

Several unions have already submitted proposals for wage increases, among other things, to employers. Pollydore, in briefing the 23-member affiliates on the wage talks, said that it was not the position of the Executive that the discussions 'should have the effect of impeding possible progress which could be made with respect to representations put forward by these unions or to pre-empt action by other TUC affiliates....'

And while he called on affiliates to weigh the advantages and disadvantages of 'pursuing such negotiations concurrently with discussions taking place between the government and the TUC' he suggested that the matter 'should be less complex when the results of the present discussions have been disclosed.'

One union, NAACIE, which has already made proposals to Guysuco for wage increases, want the talks discontinued since the TUC, as was decided at the 1982 Conference, was 'ill-equipped' to bargain on behalf of the affiliates. Other unions including GAWU and the PSU intend to pursue separate negotiations with employers.

However, knowing that government is having talks with the TUC and that only the President can now decide on wage increases for public sector employees, employers are not keen on pushing the issue with unions. GAWU, the country's biggest union, had to remind Guysuco last week of its wage proposals and the need to have the negotiations speeded up.

It is understood that GAWU and NAACIE are to jointly press Guysuco for urgent interim relief for workers they represent.

The govt., and TUC have 3 members each on the six-member technical committee set up after the first TUC/government meeting on March 10. The next meeting is scheduled for March 26.

In a press statement last week, the People's Progressive Party warned workers to 'be on guard, for it is not unlikely, with the present set-up in the TUC, that that body would not again sell out.' Though the TUC seems to fall for the gimmick that the conclusions of the talks would not be binding, it would again be used by the regime to force paltry pay hike on workers under the pretext that they consulted the TUC. And if accepted by the Executive President, the TUC/Government conclusions would become law.

PSU Concern Over Amendment

Georgetown MIRROR in English 1 Apr 84 p 3

[Text] The Executive Council of the Guyana Public Service Union (PSU) has held an emergency meeting at which it was agreed to express its concern over the manner in which the Labour Amendment Bill was hurried through the National Assembly without even the usual courtesy being accorded the Union of being consulted on the measure, which it stated, has far-reaching implications, not only for the PSU but the entire trade union movement and workers in general.

The PSU has called on the Guyana Trades Union Congress to convene as a matter of urgency, a Special Delegates Conference to discuss the vital issue.

The balance of the Union's statement issued by PSU General Secretary K. Philadelphia follows:--

"At the 29th, Annual Delegates' Conference of the Guyana Trades Union Congress held in 1982, a motion was adopted, directing the Trades Union Congress to inform Government that individual Unions would be entering into Collective Bargaining Agreements with Employers. This point was re-emphasised at the Special Delegates' Conference in 1983 by the Guyana Public Service Union Delegation.

The Guyana Public Service Union has continually been reminding the Guyana Trades Union Congress to inform Government about the decision of Conference. For some strange reason the Guyana Trades Union Congress failed and/or neglected to transmit to Government the passage of this vital motion.

In September, 1983, the PSU submitted its proposals for Salaries and Wages adjustments to Government through the Public Service Ministry. The Public Service Ministry, for several months, never even acknowledged the receipt of the proposals. It was only after an appeal was made to Cde. L.F.S. Burnham, O.E., S.C., President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, that the Public Service Ministry condescended to acknowledge receipt of the Union's proposals by letter dated 21/1/84.

This was followed by another letter dated 27/2/84 which informed the Union inter alia:

Proposals for the revision of salaries and wages of Public
Servants

With reference to the abovenamed subject, I would like to indicate that my advice is that in the light of discussions with the Trades Union Congress and the Ministry of Finance, talks on Wages and Salaries revision for the Public Service will take place within the framework of consultation between Government and the Trade Union Congress--a body of which you are a significant affiliate. I am sure that you will agree that any negotiations with individual unions must be informed by the outcome of this national wages policy which will be worked out by the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Manpower in consultation with the Trade Union Congress.

These discussions are to take place shortly; if after these would have taken place, any meetings with you are necessary I will be only too happy to meet and discuss any issues specific to the Public Service, with you and your executive.

The Union was disturbed by the tone of that reply and immediately informed the Guyana Trades Union Congress about it.

The PSU's worst fears were realised when it learnt that with the passage of the Labour Amendment Bill (1984) the right to bargain for Salaries and Wages had now become the prerogative of the Guyana Trades Union Congress, since it is our understanding that this right has been taken away from individual Trade Unions, the Unions of the Workers' choice as enshrined in the Constitution of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana.

CSO: 3298/750

CORRUPTION, SMUGGLING, PARALLEL MARKET CONCERN GOVERNMENT

Airport Arrest

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 22 Mar 84 p 1

[Text] Security officials yesterday thwarted the attempt of a young Wakenaam businessman, to smuggle more than \$1,3 million in gold and foreign currency out of the country.

Their haul is believed to be the biggest yet, in their bid to clamp down on the illegal export of gold and foreign currency, which is known to be a major contributory factor to Guyana's economic crisis.

The 26-year-old businessman was held as he was about to emplane at the Timehri International Airport for the United States of America.

The security officials were reportedly stunned and elated when they realised the extent and significance of their haul. And, up to press time, top crime sleuths in Georgetown were questioning their prized catch.

146 Troy Ounces

Reports yesterday said the businessman was found attempting to smuggle out of the country 146 ounces of raw gold (in troyweight, 12 ounces of gold is equivalent to one pound), \$64 000 (US), \$7 000 (Can.), \$2,000 (B'dos), \$87 (EC) and 5 000 pounds sterling.

One member of the public on hearing the report remarked: "He had a whole basket of currencies."

At yesterday's price for gold on the world market, 146 ounces of gold would have fetched a hefty \$214 620. On the parallel market, it would have fetched an even more hefty \$584 000.

On the official market, the foreign currency would be worth about \$300 000 (or close to \$750 000 on the parallel market).

Meanwhile, the Police and Customs, mindful of the drain on the economy occasioned through smuggling, have stepped up their surveillance activities at the Timehri International Airport.

The CHRONICLE learnt that improved arrangements are being put in place to carry out the searches which must be done "with the expected courtesy."

Instructions have been given to ensure that female passengers are searched only by female investigators.

Yesterday's arrest has served to highlight the extent to which the national economy is being drained and the true nature of the problem with which local security personnel have to grapple.

Smuggling

Last year, President Burnham had said that smuggling of gold was costing this country an estimated \$10 million a month. And, more recently the FINANCIAL TIMES quoted the International Monetary Fund as saying in a recent report on the country's economy, that Guyana was losing about \$1.7 million (US) each week through the smuggling of gold and diamonds to foreign markets.

"Guyana has the money to pay its mounting debts--if only it can get its hands on it," the FINANCIAL TIMES reported.

Gold, Diamond Smuggling

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 26 Mar 84 p 1

[Text] Energy and Mines Minister Harun Rashid yesterday appealed to gold and diamond miners to help government curb the smuggling of minerals out of the country.

Speaking to Guyana Gold and Diamond Miners' Association members, the Minister said gold remains one of Guyana's principal foreign exchange earners and is one of the means by which the country could lift itself out of the current economic crisis.

He said sugar is still not doing well, while the world bauxite situation is only now showing a turnaround. As a result the burden is left on the country's ability to sell its gold and diamonds on the world market in order to earn foreign exchange.

The Ministry's call was supported by National Energy Authority Chairman Abel Felix, Geology, Mines Commission Chief G.W. Walroad and Guyana Gold Board General Manager William Thomas, Cde. Rashid, also warned of measures, shortly to be introduced in the National Assembly, aimed at penalising "mines guilty of robbing the nation of its resources."

Among them are mandatory jail sentences for smuggling gold and diamonds and for obtaining fuel illegally.

Cde Rashid and his team listened to problems facing miners. Leonard Obermuller who operates at Issano, Mazaruni complained about the deplorable state of the road, shortages of cigarettes and foodstuff and the absence of Police patrols.

The Minister acknowledged the observations and promised to correct them with the assistance of the association. Other mines, including 82-year-old E.J. Levans of Cuyuni, asked for assistance in solving transportation problems in the mining districts.

"Government has confidence that the mining industry will respond to our request to increase the amount of gold sold to the Guyana Gold Board," Minister Rashid said.

Dredge Operator Cheating

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 26 Mar 84 p 1

[Text] Geology and Mines Commission Chief G.W. Walrond, disclosed yesterday that some of the owners of the 217 dredges registered locally declared no returns last year although they worked on claims for up to four months, and in some instances, longer.

Between September and December, 35 percent of the known dredges declared no gold whatsoever, 61 percent between 0 and 10 ounces, 75 percent between 0 to 20 (ounces) and 14 percent between 30 and 80 ounces. This accounted for the increase in declared gold in the later stages of 1983 he told yesterday's meeting of miners.

"One miner used 8 100 litres (1, 800 gallons) of fuel and declared no production at all," Cde Walrond told his audience at St Angela's auditorium, Thomas street.

Minister Harun Rashid, Cde Walrond and National Energy Authority Chairman Abel Felix said they all found it very strange that businessmen would work claims for long periods, provide foodstuff for men, pay expenses and in the end declare no returns.

The Minister was particularly severe on miners who are in this category. He indicated however that he understood the fluctuating fortunes in the gold and diamond business.

He made it quite clear that he was convinced that several miners were engaged in illegal activities of one kind or another.

He reminded miners that they had a duty to Guyana.

Fraud in Ministries

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 29 Mar 84 p 1

[Article by George Baird]

[Text] The figure involved in the Ministry of Finance fraud has now reached \$2.8 million with six bank books seized and about \$50 000 in cash recovered.

Crime Chief Cecil "Skip" Roberts who gave the update yesterday confirmed that a female employee of the Ministry was among those being detained. A male employee of the Ministry and a third person, not working there, are also being questioned.

The fraud, which was uncovered as the "anticorruption" drive gains momentum, involves the payment of large sums of money based on false documents. The money was allegedly due to retired Government employees, Cde. Roberts disclosed.

The Crime Chief was still optimistic last night that contacts made with the Police in Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados would help bring back some other persons wanted for questioning in relation to the fraud.

According to Cde. Roberts, the investigations are revealing more and more transactions as the probe continues.

Charges might be laid shortly, he said.

The Deputy Commissioner (Crime) also disclosed that detectives were examining documents at the Ministry of Education in connection with a suspected fraud in that Ministry.

It appears that "padded" paysheets have been found showing that several persons who have left the teaching service were still on the current payroll, he said.

Discussing the Berbice investigations, which started when two top Regional Administration officials were sent off the job, Cde. Roberts said illegal payments had been made under the Tender Board system. He did not elaborate.

Region 6 Dismissals

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 31 Mar 84 p 5

[Text] Regional Chairman of Region Six Surujnarine Singh has disclosed that more Regional officials have been sent home; as auditors from Georgetown comb through documents in a continuing "anticorruption" probe in that Region.

Two weeks ago, it was revealed that two top officers were sent off the job at the start of the investigations.

Speaking at the Regional Democratic Council meeting on Thursday in New Amsterdam, Cde. Singh said three female officers from the Administration (two from New Amsterdam and one from Benab) have also been sent on leave pending investigation of alleged irregularities in their departments.

The GUYANA NEWS AGENCY (GNA) quoted him as saying that investigations were being conducted in other areas and should irregularities be found, those involved would be properly dealt with.

The GNA report from East Berbice said a Police Officer, who is spearheading the probe, pointed out that certain documents are now being examined to determine the offences and the charges that have to be laid.

The Berbice investigations are part of the national anticorruption drive.

President Forbes Burnham said recently that officers who steal from the State at this particular juncture of the country's development are committing an act tantamount to treason.

Drive Against Parallel Market

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 31 Mar 84 pp 1, 2

[Text] Vice-President Hamilton Green has expressed Government's readiness to work with all commercial agencies to put an end to the "parallel market" which he described as a "cancer" threatening the fabric of the Guyanese society.

In an address Thursday to the 93d annual luncheon of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry at the Hotel Tower, he also called on the Chamber to help the State to curb the smuggling of gold from Guyana.

Chamber President Wainwright McKenzie had earlier called for action to deal with the parallel market which he claimed was being allowed to flourish. He said there was need to "reverse this malady and remove this awful scar upon the Guyanese character."

Vice-President Green said it was "disgusting to see able-bodied men and women, like vultures, selling cigarettes and the like on the street corners."

"It is a shameful waste of our human resources for if they used the opportunities which exist to acquire skills and till the land, individually and as groups, we will all be better off' he told the gathering which included Chief Justice Kenneth George and members of the Diplomatic Corps.

"The Government stands ready, together with the Chamber and like-minded agencies to put an end to this cancer which threatens to destroy the very fabric of our society. You must also help us curb the smuggling of our gold," Cde Green appealed.

The luncheon provided an opportunity for a frank exchange of views between the representatives of the Government and the Chamber. Among the other matters they addressed were plans for a new Investment Code for Guyana and the need for cooperation between the Government and the Chamber.

McKenzie expressed support for the Government's agricultural policy, but said that there was a "crying need" for private investment and joint venture programmes, which reflected "close collaboration" between the public and private sectors.

He complained that members of the private sector had not benefited "significantly" from consumer goods imported by Government agencies, although they had been given assurance that they would receive a fair share.

He also complained that there has been no formal response from the Government to proposals made by the Chamber, relating to "some practical measures for arresting the downward slide in the economy and for turning it around towards sustained recovery."

He lamented that some private manufacturing firms, which were export-oriented, were forced to cut production as a result of inadequate inputs of raw materials and spares.

He saluted the government's decision to cushion the effect of the reduced value of the Guyana dollar, by absorbing two-thirds of the increased cost of satisfying suppliers' credits, in respect of sums already on deposit with the Bank of Guyana.

He acknowledged too, Government's efforts to improve the distribution system which, he said, was now touching a much wider public than it did a year ago but contended that supplies were still not enough to meet the needs of the entire community.

The Chamber President also contended that the absence of a reliable fireboat in the Guyana Fire Services was a grave threat to the safety of property on the waterfront and that the Consumption Tax was seriously affecting the manufacturing community.

He repeated his organisation's offer to make available the expertise within its ranks, to "assist in alleviating some of the hardships that have confronted the nation in recent times."

Referring to proposals for a new Investment Code, Cde Green said the key factor in attracting investment was that "elusive characteristic" called the "investment climate."

"Perceptions of this climate are formed by all sorts of people for all sorts of reasons. Some of these perceptions are, perhaps, formed more significantly by what the local private businessmen say to their overseas counterparts.

"The things you say to the Diplomatic Corps, at your cocktail parties, the derogatory comments made (for whatever reasons) can take years to redress whether we have a new or no Investment Code at all," he added.

Touching on McKenzie's claim that the Government was ignoring the Chamber's proposals for economic recovery, Cde Green said the absence of a formal reply must not be taken to mean that their ideas were being ignored. These proposals, he added, were being given serious consideration.

And, explaining that the National Economic and Social Council is to be established shortly, the Vice-President said this would provide the ongoing mechanism for discussions and recommendations to Government.

The Government, he said, remained committed to dialogue, consultation and the tri-sectoral economy.

He called on members of the Chamber to let the current difficulties propel them to rise to the occasion, seek new and exciting areas, and help inspire their workers to get firmly behind the National Plans for survival.

The Vice-President said he was aware that forces opposed to the success of the Guyana Revolution "seek daily to persuade us to yield; to persuade you to tell this Government, as some in fact have done, that we should surrender to 'Big Brother.' This will be a total negation of our sacrifices and our independence."

He added: "We in Guyana wish for no enemies. We only wish to maintain our independence and our own interests."

Government Culpability

Georgetown CATHOLIC STANDARD in English 1 Apr 84 p 2

[Text] For many years gold, diamonds and foreign currency have been smuggled out of the country.

In large measure, they have been used to pay for purchases of food, drugs, machinery, spare parts and other commodities the government has failed to provide.

All down the line, officials have benefitted from the trade.

Having a little desire to stop the importation of goods that the people needed, many were prepared for a consideration to assist in the circumvention of the law.

Government was well aware of this activity. At times it made a show of trying to stop it, but for the most part it turned a blind eye to it or even encouraged it.

How else could we have had hot dogs, hamburgers and roti being sold openly during the Indian and Australian Cricket Tours.

The parallel market has indeed provided a safety valve for the people who might otherwise have taken to the streets for being denied so many basic items.

Unofficial trade with Brazil has been encouraged. As that country accepted Guyana dollars in payment for goods, two flights a week were laid on to Boa Vista and there went not only hucksters, but public corporation officials as well, carrying suitcases stacked with Guyana dollars to make their purchases.

These dollars were brought back by the Brazilians to purchase gold.

A Brazilian was known to have set up an office in a leading Georgetown hotel to purchase the precious metal, paying \$3,400: an oz, more than double the price being offered by the Gold Board.

Shops in the public and private sector bought openly from hucksters who travelled between Guyana, the Caribbean and the US.

Moreover, government has been allowing the importation, as gifts from abroad, of videos, cars and other expensive equipment with the certain knowledge that they were being paid for by gold and other valuables smuggled out.

Minister Hubert Jack in Feb. 1982, told a miners' meeting that miners had been allowed to import \$3 million worth of machinery as gifts, but, he let them know he was well aware that they had exported gold to pay for it.

Reportedly, too, official couriers have regularly taken out gold for favoured members of the political hierarchy.

Rice, sugar, toothpaste, prawns and other local produce have also been exported in order to get currency needed to import.

The law has been observed more in its breach by the lowest to the highest. Lawlessness in our society is rampant.

In a recent splurge of activity the police announced that they had uncovered fraud committed by two corporation top officials, hundred-thousand-dollar rackets in the Treasury, corruption in regional officials and payroll stealing from the Tactical Service Unit of the police, presumably by policemen.

A great show is being made of trying to regain control of the economy. This is apparently being done in order to impress the IMF who are returning soon to resume negotiations.

Arrests for possession of flour and other restricted items have been greatly stepped up and heavy fines and imprisonment imposed.

Most outrageous of all, Guyanese travelling from Guyana are being subjected to the grave indignity of being made to strip at the Timehri airport and being body searched.

The discovery of a large quantity of gold and foreign currency being taken out by two persons has been used to justify this humiliation inflicted on innocent passengers.

Government has only itself to blame for the existence of the parallel market. Rather than bring more suffering on the Guyanese people by searches, fines and imprisonment, let it provide the basic necessities, such as milk, flour, oil, peas, margarine and cheese.

If it cannot do so, it should let those who can, provide them. Let the churches receive the gifts of milk and cheese offered. Let the economy be freed of stifling bureaucratic controls. Let the discriminatory distribution system that favours the elite and gives preference to party supporters be scrapped.

People will then not have to circumvent the law to exist. They will no longer have to smuggle to obtain their basic needs.

Government's Position

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 1 Apr 84 p 1

[Text] "Guyana has the money to pay its mounting debts...if only it can get its hands on it"---NEW YORK TIMES, March 9, 1984.

"A recent report on (Guyana's) economy by the International Monetary Fund said the country is losing about \$1,7 million (US) each week through the smuggling of its gold and diamonds to foreign markets"---NEW YORK TIMES.

In the wake of these statements some Guyanese have begun to protest efforts by the Guyana Government to curb the extent of smuggling of its much needed resources. Authorities at Guyana's major points of entry and exit have resorted to searching potential smugglers.

At the Timehri International Airport alone at least three persons are arrested for attempting to smuggle gold and foreign currency on every commercial flight leaving Guyana. But as an official explained the number of those caught is nowhere near the numbers of persons who actually smuggle such commodities out of the country on each flight.

The official explained that the limited CID staff at the airport can only search about 25 percent of those seeking to depart. An average flight accommodates 115 passengers.

Smuggling of gold and foreign currency is not limited to males as the official explained and in conjunction with the airport authorities the CID has constructed special booths to facilitate searches of those suspected of smuggling.

If one should judge smugglers by appearances one would never be in a position to make arrests, another CID official said. They come in all manner of respectability, from the sanctimonious middle-aged woman to the sprightly glib-talking, intelligent man or woman, he added.

As can be expected there are protests from some of those on whom nothing is found and these protests sometimes reach absurd levels.

One authority explained that all searches are conducted in a manner designed to avoid any violation of the rights of the individual. No force is used and only women CID officers search women travellers, he added. "The entire action is conducted in total privacy."

What is certain is that the small CID staff operating at Timehri is inadequate for a more efficient operation.

Role for Regions' Assistance

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 1 Apr 84 p 1

[Text] In the face of the mounting incidence of smuggling the Regional Administration has been called on to provide important back-up service to the Criminal Investigation Division. The Regional Administration in the various Regions are in the best position to monitor the movement of persons who deal in illegal activities.

As Crime Chief, Cde Cecil Roberts, noted Timehri and Springlands are not the only points used by the smugglers. Some of the other exit points are the wide border areas and the gold-bearing parts of the hinterland.

In Region Seven and Region Eight, two of the leading gold-bearing areas in Guyana, the Regional Administration should put in place, mechanisms to ensure that reports of illegal dealings are forwarded to the Police, Cde Roberts said.

The Regional Chairmen are required to collect data on every operation within the Regions and with an effective system of monitoring they can detect cases of false or inaccurate reports leading to investigations and possible arrests.

CID Successes

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 1 Apr 84 p 1

[Text] During the first three months of this year the Criminal Investigation Division in conjunction with the airport authorities has arrested 62 persons and has recovered 16 pounds, 10 pennyweights and 11 grams of gold.

Figures released to NEW NATION by the CID also state that a large quantity of currency from many countries has been recovered by the state.

To date the state has recovered \$72,951 (US), \$7,673 Canadian, \$7,588 (TT), \$2,187 (B'dos), 5,957 British pounds, 1561 guilders and \$14388 (G) in currency notes. In addition the \$37 096 in fines has been collected following the prosecution of smugglers.

But as one CID official noted the amount of booty recovered is no more than 25 percent of what the smugglers have taken out of the country during these early months.

And the peak period as far as the flow of currency is concerned is still some way off, he added.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This paper has not attempted to guess at the amount of gold and diamond smuggled out of Guyana from the mining areas through direct small private flights which originate from places like Kamarang, Imbaimadai and Kurupung.

Region 6 Charges

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 2 Apr 84 p 1

[Text] Two top officials of the Regional Administration in Region 6 (East Berbice/Corentyne) will be charged with offences linked to the current anti-corruption drive, an authoritative source disclosed yesterday.

The source explained that after careful consideration of advice from the Chambers of the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Police decided Saturday to charge the men.

The men are now expected to appear in court today, the source told the CHRONICLE.

Those being charged, it was learnt, are the most senior of about a half a dozen officials in the Region 6 Administration who were sent off the job over the last two weeks.

At least three of the others are senior officials--not "female" officers as earlier reported--according to Regional Chairman Surujnaraine Singh who reported the interdictions at a meeting of the Regional Democratic Council last week.

Crime Chief Cecil "Skip" Roberts who is in charge of the investigations, had said last week that the Berbice probe was in relation to illegal payments under the Tender Board system.

Meanwhile, the Police should hear today, the latest development on requests to Barbados, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago Police to apprehend some men wanted for questioning in the \$2.8 million Ministry of Finance (Treasury) fraud.

Reliable reports said that fraud resulted from a clever scheme, through which gratuities, authorised as payable to retired government officers, were paid to persons not entitled.

Additional Fraud Charges

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 3 Apr 84 p 1

[Text] The police yesterday charged a top Regional official from Berbice and four former public servants in Georgetown with complicity in two big frauds connected to the anti-corruption campaign.

They will be among a total of 12 persons to appear in different Courts today to answer fraud charges.

Regional Senior Superintendent of Works Rockliffe Christie from Region 6 is charged together with Tameshwar Bovell and his relative Savitri Tameshwar called Savitri Bovell, a housewife, and Pearl Dindyal who was attached to Christie's Office. They are accused of falsification of accounts.

Colin Raphael, Zenadeen Jameer (Jnr), Pamela Elizabeth Thomas also called Pamela Belle and Larry Lesper, all former clerks at the Ministry of Finance and Riley Thomas called Riley Daniels or "Frank," an absconded soldier, Gregory Changlee called "Jeff," a clerk at Guyana National Printers Limited and Ernest Wrights, a garbage truck driver attached to the Mayor and City Council are accused of the \$2,8 million Treasury fraud.

The charge said they stole \$2 787 722.70 from the Ministry of Finance between January 24, 1983 and March 13, 1984.

Details of the Berbice charges were not clear and it is understood that the resignation of one magistrate, the absence on leave of another and the scheduled sitting of a Court away from New Amsterdam caused the Berbice accused not to appear in Court yesterday.

The twelfth person charged with stealing Government money is Marcia Persaud, a clerk at the Timehri Office of the Customs and Excise Department. She is accused of stealing \$7 000 while being a clerk or servant at the Department.

Rice Smuggling

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 3 Apr 84 p 1

[Text]. East Berbice-- GNA--Guyana Rice Board General Manager Leon Dundas said over the weekend that more than 500 bags of rice were being smuggled out of the country every week across Guyana's eastern border. Cde Dundas called on farmers and rice millers to help the Board to curb the racket. He said eight vessels are reported to be involved in the smuggling using certain landing points on the coastland.

To help curb the situation, Cde Dundas said, certain measures have been taken to monitor the landing facilities of ships along the coastland, and the movement of rice.

Cde Dundas made the disclosure after winding-up a three-day visit to rice areas in Region Six. During the exercise, the GRB General Manager held discussions with the Regional Chairman Cde Surujnarine Singh, Rice Producers' Association Chairman Budram Mahadeo, Regional Rice Board Chairman Rajpaul Jaipaul, Chairmen of Local Authorities and rice millers.

The GRB head commended the Region for embarking on the project of constructing a bulk carrier for the transportation of rice in the Region. And to support the effort to solve the transportation problem Cde Dundas has arranged to hand over to the region a bulk wagon which is now at Black Bush Polder.

This move, he said, will help reduce the demand for foreign exchange to purchase bags for farmers.

Cde Dundas, who visited the Manarabisi Irrigation Canal in the Black Bush Polder expressed concern about the siltation of the waterway and stressed the need for the redigging of the facility.

He said this canal, which supplies water to over 6 400 hectares (16 000) acres of rice land, now has a depth of about 0.9 metre (three feet).

CSO: 3298/752

ANTICORRUPTION PURGE CONSONANT WITH SOCIALIST PRINCIPLES

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 1 Apr 84 pp 4-5

[Article by P. H. Daly]

[Text] The purging process, tersely and taciturnly called the "anticorruption drive" which is taking place in State corporations, agencies and enterprises to rid them of corrupt elements is the finest tribute to the principles and values of the Socialist ideology, the guidelines of which are shaping the new Guyana society now under construction.

The purification process serves notice locally to elements with the predatory capitalist instinct that they will not be allowed to "feather their nests" at the expense of the State.

It also serves notice internationally to those trying to turn the nation off the course of Socialist construction that the government will not recant on its Socialist principles and values either through corruption at home or imperialist pressure abroad.

In its true significance, therefore, this anticorruption drive proclaims to the people, the incorruptability of the Socialist value system under the guidelines of which our society is being constructed and the importance of their continuing to support the revolution in a country where, at all levels, wrongdoing, malpractices and corruption will be denounced regardless of the standing of the perpetrators.

It is well-known that the anticorruption campaign was inspired by Comrade Leader and President, Cde Forbes Burnham, who said that those who stole from the state at this stage of Guyana's development were committing, "An act tantamount to treason."

Reports from Socialist countries indicate that people convicted of stealing from the State usually face the firing squad, the act of stealing from the State being regarded as treason.

Until recently the Gold Board and the Rice Board were losing millions of dollars yearly because of the smuggling of these commodities out of the country. The shortage of spare parts and gasoline which continues to agonise the transportation problem is known to have its roots in malpractices.

How long these problems will last depends on how long our humanitarian society will continue to be tolerant of acts bordering on treason.

Nationally and internationally the government is showing its fidelity to the principles and values of Socialism, but the people who suffer from the continuing operation of this plague of corruption are growing to realise that the plague has to be stopped by "one ruthless act justifying another."

CSO: 3298/752

BRIEFS

COOPERATION WITH CUBA--Guyana and Cuba have signed a memorandum for continued collaboration in Labour, Social Security and Cooperatives. The memorandum was signed during a recent visit to Havana by Manpower and Cooperatives Minister Kenneth Denny. A release from the Ministry described the visit as 'highly successful' and said a similar delegation from Cuba would visit Guyana shortly. While in Cuba, Cde Denny held discussions on future collaboration between Guyana and Cuba in Labour Relations and Management, Wages Administration, Social Security and Occupational Health and Safety. The Manpower and Cooperatives Minister, who was invited to Havana by his Cuban counterpart Joaquin Benevides Rodrigues, also met Vice-President and Secretary of the Council of Ministers and of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba, Osmany Coenfuegos Gorriaran. According to the Ministry release, closer ties between Guyana and Cuba and the thrust towards socialist stimulation and emulation were stressed by Cde Denny and the Cuban Vice-President during their talks. Cde Denny also spoke with leaders of the Cuban Trades Union Council and visited a sugar plantation and a producers' cooperative, the release said. (GNA) [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 4 Apr 84 pp 4-5]

PPP COUNCILLOR--Anna Regina--A new Minority People's Progressive Party (PPP) representative has been sworn in as a Councillor in the Regional Democratic Council of Region Two. At the statutory meeting of the Council held at the Regional boardroom at Anna Regina Tuesday, Cde. Lall of Land of Plenty took the oath before the gathering of Councillors and Officers. He replaces Cde Rampertap of Better Success who resigned in July last year. Councillor Lall joins three other PPP Councillors on the 17-member Council. (GNA) [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 23 Mar 84 p 5]

BANK DECENTRALIZATION--In its desire to assist as much as possible with Regional Development, GAIBANK has decentralised its operations in Region 6 and marked the event last Friday with a simple informal ceremony at its Regional Headquarters, Rose Hall, Corentyne. Among those at the ceremony were the Regional Chairman, Cde. Surujnarine Singh, Cde. John Butters, GAIBANK's General Manager, together with other members of GAIBANK's staff, and a number of farmers in the area. Cde. Butters launched the decentralisation by presenting cheques to sixteen borrowers. Decentralisation will benefit GAIBANK's Region 6 clients in many ways. All aspects of loan preparation and processing will be the responsibility of the Regional Office and borrowers from Region 6 will no longer need to visit Georgetown to transact business

with the bank. Loans will be processed much more quickly and borrowers will be saved both time and money. GAIBANK has offices at the following locations in Region 6--New Amsterdam--GCIS building Main and New Streets; Rose Hall Town, Black Bush Polder--at the Marketing Centre and Corriverton--at the Regional Administration building. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 24 Mar 84 p 3]

REGION 6 ROAD DEVELOPMENT--East Berbice. GNA--The Regional Administration of Region Six--East Berbice-Corentyne--has earmarked \$5 million for road development in its capital estimates for the year. The disclosure was made by Assistant Regional Executive Officer Cde. J.A. McIntosh at the Finance Committee meeting of the RDC, when he presented some of the highlights of the Region's \$9,21 million budget. He said some of the development works which are geared to improve agricultural production in the Region are sea and river defence--\$800 000; drainage and irrigation--\$500 000; and \$100 000 for agricultural development projects. The Regional Chairman, Cde. Surujnaraine Singh, explained that following a recent meeting with the farmers at Black Bush Polder, it was decided to have three cleanings a year of drainage and irrigation canals in the Polder. The farmers will undertake the cleaning on a co-operative basis. The Finance Committee also agreed that consideration be given to the building of a bulk carrier for the transportation of paddy to the Guyana Rice Board's silos at Black Bush Polder. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 2 Apr 84 p 8]

CRITICISM OF REGIONAL COUNCILORS--District Coordinator for the Upper Corentyne/Orealla district of the People's National Congress, Cde. Ivelaw Hartman, has hit out against those Regional Democratic Councillors who absent themselves from statutory meetings. He is calling for the replacement of those who are not willing to serve. Speaking at the weekly Administrative committee meeting at Congress Place, New Amsterdam on Tuesday Cde Hartman said many councillors are absent for three consecutive meetings and warned that these persons who were elected to serve by the Party, should be thrown out and have proper replacement. Cde Isaac Chowritmootoo told the meeting that P.N.C. Councilors ought to be at all Administrative meetings to keep abreast of Party policies. Regional Supervisor Santon Lambert instructed the Regional Secretary, Cde. Emanuel Cumberbatch, to write a final letter inviting councillors to the next meeting. [Text] [Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 25 Mar 84 p 3]

PNC AGRICULTURAL DRIVE--The Secretariat of the People's National Congress is engaged in a massive agricultural programme designed to earn the Party money to conduct its day-to-day operations. At the same time the project is a case of leadership by example. The most recent project involves 240 hectares (600 acres) aback of Sophia that will be put under rice and other crops. This represents a significant increase in agricultural production at Sophia. On the smaller plots the Secretariat has been releasing its staff members on a rotation basis ensuring that each employee contributes one day's work on the farm. General Secretary of the Party, Cde. Ptolemy Reid, at the recent Administrative Committee meeting of the Party, called for each Party worker to have as his slogan "Weed is Tabu." The first group of workers to go to the farm were drawn from the Department of Administration and Finance, under the leadership of Cde Leslie Dundas. [Text] [Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 25 Mar 84 p 4]